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Release Date: June 22, 2011
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

National HIV Testing Day is June 27, 2011

Carson City – National HIV Testing Day, an annual event that encourages people to get tested for HIV, is Monday, June 27, 2011. Throughout the week of June 21, many organizations will offer HIV testing and host special HIV events. Testing, which is quick, easy and inexpensive, will be available at dozens of clinics located all around Nevada. Testing hours and other information can be found at www.inspot.org or www.hivtest.org.

The Nevada State Health Division urges all Nevadans to remember that:

- Testing at least once a year is recommended for people with multiple sex partners, injection drug users and gay men
- Everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 should be tested at least once in their lifetime
- Pregnant women should be tested early in the pregnancy so that steps can be taken to prevent transmission of HIV to the baby

The slogan for National HIV Testing Day in 2011 is “Take the Test - Take Control.” According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1.1 million Americans are living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It is estimated that of these individuals, one in five (21%) do not know they are infected and may be transmitting HIV without knowing it. People who are infected with HIV and know their status can prevent transmission of the virus to others and receive the medical care needed to live a healthy, longer life. Testing, early detection, and prevention are essential to eliminating HIV in Nevada and nationwide.

In 2010, Nevada had an estimated 369 new HIV infections, which is down 13% decrease from 2006. This decrease in the number of new infections may be the result of more Nevadans getting tested, knowing their HIV status, and preventing the transmission of HIV to others.

For general information about HIV/AIDS, visit www.cdc.gov/hiv

Please join the Nevada State Health Division, Southern Nevada Health District, Washoe County Health District, Carson City Health and Human Services, and the many community based organizations throughout Nevada in observing NHTD on June 27, 2011. For more information, please call Sandi Noffsinger at (702) 486-6515 x261. For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, visit www.health.nv.gov.

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