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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO OFFER FREE HIV TESTING  
IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, FL** – St. Johns County Health Department will observe National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) by offering free HIV-testing and education at several locations in St. Augustine, Florida. This day was established as a national community mobilization, HIV testing and treatment effort designed to encourage blacks across the country to **get educated, get tested, get treated, and get involved** with HIV/AIDS. The event takes place on February 7th of every year. The theme of this years' NBHAAD is:

***“HIV/AIDS Prevention - A Choice and a Lifestyle!”***

**What:** Confidential HIV Testing & Education - FREE

**Who:** - Any individual that has participated in unprotected sexual activity.  
- Any individual that has used shared of needles/syringes (drug use, tattooing, piercing).  
- Anyone wishing to know their health status.

Clinic Location	Date	Time	Cost
<b>St. Johns County Health Department</b> 1955 U.S. 1 South, Suite 100, St. Augustine, FL 32086	<b>Monday -Friday</b> February 1 - 5	9:00am to 4:00pm	<b>FREE</b>
<b>St. Francis House on the Public Health Mobile Center</b> 70 Washington St. St. Augustine FL 32084 <b>** RAPID HIV Testing **</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>FREE</b>

**Why:** HIV / AIDS it is a leading cause of death for Black Americans. This is unfortunate since HIV/AIDS is 100% preventable. In 2007, HIV/AIDS was the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for Black men and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for Black women, age 25-44. In 2006, both Black men and women had the highest HIV death rates per 100,000 men and women respectively, age 25-34 and 35-44. Black Americans account for about 13% of the U.S. population and also account for about half of the people who contract HIV and are diagnosed with AIDS. These rates are attributed to poverty, access to health care and social stigma.

***It's time to get educated, get tested, get treated, and get involved with HIV/AIDS!***

Free HIV testing is available at St. Johns County Health Department on a walk-in basis, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The service is also offered aboard the Public Health Mobile Center. For location, dates and times, view the monthly schedule at [www.StJohnsCHD.org](http://www.StJohnsCHD.org) or call 904-825-5055.

For additional information on NBHAAD, please visit [www.BlackAidsDay.org](http://www.BlackAidsDay.org).

**# # #**

*Our Mission: Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.*

*Our Vision: A healthier future for the people of Florida.*

*Our Values: - Integrity; Commitment to Service; Respect; Excellence; Accountability; Teamwork; Empowerment –*



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