

**ALLEN BEALS, M.D., J.D.**  
*Commissioner of Health*



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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: June 13, 2013**

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**“TAKE THE TEST, TAKE CONTROL” ON JUNE 27  
NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY**

**Brewster, NY** – Thursday, June 27, is National HIV Testing Day, an annual event to encourage people of all ages to “Take the Test, Take Control.” Nearly 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in Atlanta, and approximately one in five of them do not know they are infected. While people with HIV and AIDS are living longer, healthier and more productive lives, and new research is promising, there is still no vaccine or cure for HIV.

“Early diagnosis and prompt, appropriate treatment can make the difference in quality and length of life,” said Allen Beals, M.D., Commissioner of Health, “and it is also the key to protecting others from becoming infected.” Individuals under treatment are less likely to transmit the disease to their partners.

To encourage testing, the Putnam County Department of Health is offering refreshments and special extended hours on Thursday, June 27, from 10:00am to 6:00pm, for free rapid HIV testing and counseling, at 121 Main Street, in Brewster, NY. No appointments are necessary. Free educational information and condoms will be available and \$5 Dunkin Donut gift cards will be given to the first 20 people who come in for testing.

For more information about HIV testing or HIV/AIDS education and prevention, contact the Health Department at (845) 808-1390.

The Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of Putnam County

residents through prevention of illness and injury. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our website at [www.putnamcountyny.com](http://www.putnamcountyny.com); or visit our social media sites on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/putnamhealth](https://www.facebook.com/putnamhealth) and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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