

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



MARYELLEN ODELL
County Executive

ROBERT MORRIS, P.E., M.P.H.
Director of Environmental Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509
Phone # (845) 808-1390

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Barbara Ilardi, Public Information Officer, (845) 808-1390

**“Take the Test, Take Control”
PCDOH Recognizes National HIV Testing Day on June 26**

Brewster, NY – National HIV Testing Day is 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 seven 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 HIV testing, the Putnam County Department of Health is offering free rapid HIV testing and counseling on Friday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 1 Geneva Road, in Brewster, NY. Privacy and confidentiality are ensured. No appointments are necessary and results are ready in 20 minutes. Free condoms, giveaways and educational information will be available.

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, emergency preparedness and health education. For more information, please visit the website at www.putnamcountyny.com; or the social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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