

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



MARYELLEN ODELL
County Executive

ROBERT MORRIS, PE
Director of Environmental Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509
845-808-1390

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2012

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

**PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
RECOGNIZES WORLD AIDS DAY**

Brewster, NY – Saturday, December 1, is World AIDS Day, a day set aside to increase awareness of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic around the world. Although there have been new technologies brought to the fight against AIDS, such as a rapid HIV test and new treatments that have slowed the progression of HIV to AIDS, the disease remains a major health threat both in the U.S. and worldwide. 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.”

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in Atlanta estimates that one in five infected people do not know they are HIV positive. Chances are they have never been tested for HIV because they do not believe that they are at risk. To commemorate World AIDS Day, the Putnam County Department of Health is offering refreshments and special extended hours on Tuesday, December 4, from 1:30 to 6pm, for free rapid HIV testing and counselling, at 121 Main Street, in Brewster, NY. No appointments are necessary. Free educational information and condoms will also 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 the county’s nearly 100,000 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; or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

###