

November 25, 2019

Events to acknowledge those affected by HIV/AIDS

MOBILE, Alabama — In recognition of those who have passed, been infected or affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the Mobile County Health Department and Family Health’s Ryan White Community Advisory Council have planned special events to mark the 32nd annual World AIDS Day.

Johndra Lewis, a Clinic Administrator for the Ryan White program, will appear today on Facebook Live during a Wellness Wednesday episode at 1 p.m. to discuss the events. It will be available for viewing later on MCHD’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/XEqeQ-cvCMk>.

On Monday, November 30, it will be a “Day of Prevention and Awareness.” AIDS testing will be offered at Family Health sites. To make an appointment, call 251-690-8889.

The official World AIDS Day will be observed on Tuesday, December 1. MCHD and Family Health staff are encouraged to wear their gray PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) T-shirt and/or red attire for a special dress down day. There will be a “Moment of Silence” and red ribbon stickers passed out at 10 a.m. in recognition of this day. The World AIDS Day events will end with a virtual “Day of Remembrance” at 2:30 p.m. This event will feature a Rose Ceremony and portrait dedication from Tyrome Tover, a Peer Mentor for MCHD.

Community-led organizations are guided by the people who they serve and are primarily accountable to them. In the AIDS response, this includes organizations by and for people living with HIV and organizations by and for people affected by HIV.

According to the www.hiv.gov website, approximately 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV today. About 14 percent of them (1 in 7) do not know it and need testing. HIV continues to have a disproportionate impact on certain populations, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, and gay and bisexual men.

Getting tested is the first step to finding out if a person has HIV. If a person has contracted HIV, getting medical care, along with taking medicines regularly helps them to live a longer and healthier life. It also lowers the chances of passing HIV on to others.

For more information on the local events, contact Mr. Tover at 251-690-8170.