Central Michigan
District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Newspaper

From: Kelly Kjolhede BSW, Medical Case Manager

RE: World AIDS Day

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World AIDS Day #WAD2018

This year marks the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day. First observed in 1988, World AIDS day was initiated by health ministers from around the world who called for a spirit of social tolerance and a greater awareness of HIV/AIDS on an international scale. World AIDS Day is on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

The prevalence of HIV in Michigan has steadily increased, since persons with HIV are living longer. This is largely due to improved anti-retroviral medications. The number of newly diagnosed HIV positive patients has been stable for the past several years, and is a greater number than the reported deaths. The current reported prevalence in Michigan in 2017 of HIV is 16,218 and the prevalence of AIDS is 8,380.

What can you do? You can wear a red ribbon, which is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that can be worn by people all year and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS. Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) will be doing its part in recognizing World AIDS Day, #WAD2018, by distributing red ribbons in our six branch offices. If you would like a red ribbon to wear in support and/or become involved in your area to promote prevention and education, please stop by your local CMDHD branch office. You can also get tested yourself to know your own HIV status. Central Michigan District Health Department offers HIV testing by appointment. Call (989) 773-5921 ext. 1409 to make an appointment.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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