



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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United We Can: Stop HIV and Prevent AIDS October 15 is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

(Santa Ana) – The Orange County Health Care Agency announces that October 15, 2009 is the seventh annual observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. National Latino AIDS Awareness Day occurs during Hispanic Heritage Month, and is a day of hope for a future without AIDS, “United We Can: Stop HIV and Prevent AIDS” is the campaign’s theme.

In 2005, HIV/AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. for Latino men and women ages 35-44 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008). Latinos also account for a higher proportion of AIDS cases than their representation in the general population (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2008). In 2008, for example, Latinos composed approximately 33% of the Orange County population; however, they accounted for 52% of the diagnosed AIDS cases and 42% of the newly diagnosed HIV cases in the County. As Latinos are the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the U.S., preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS in this community through prevention education and testing becomes central to improving the nation’s health.

Since HIV testing is a critical step in identifying HIV infections and reducing high risk behaviors and transmission it is recommended that everyone, and especially Latinos, get tested for HIV in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 through October 15) and National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (October 15). In Orange County, the following agencies are offering confidential and anonymous free or low-cost testing:

- **Orange County Health Care Agency:** 17th Street Clinic, (714) 834-8787: walk-ins only - Mon., Wed., and Thurs. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tue. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **The Center Orange County:** (714) 953-5428: call for times and locations
- **AIDS Services Foundation:** (949) 809-8775: walk-ins only - Tue., Wed., and Thurs. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Laguna Beach Community Clinic:** Tue., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. - call for hours, (949) 494-0761 (there is a charge for services, call for details).
- For more testing sites and information call (800) 367-2437 or go online: www.AIDShotline.org

Make a difference today! Get tested for HIV and tell a friend to get tested for HIV. For more information on HIV services in Orange County, contact the Health Care Agency at (714) 834-8711. United We Can: Stop HIV and Prevent AIDS!

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