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County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Education

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For Immediate Release

Date: June 10, 2008 Contact: Cheryl Boney Phone: (530) 666-8645

National HIV Testing Day is Friday, June 27, 2008

Woodland, CA--Friday, June 27, 2008 is National HIV Testing Day, a national campaign to increase awareness about getting tested, and is coordinated by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US). The theme of this year's Testing Day, "Take the Test, Take Control", encourages people who participate in activities that put them at risk for HIV to seek voluntary HIV testing and counseling.

While there are no formal events planned for National HIV Testing Day in Yolo County, HIV testing is an ongoing program sponsored by the Yolo County Health Department and its community partners. In the past twelve months, over 600 people have tested for HIV in Yolo County. Several sites in the county offer free confidential HIV tests. Many do not require a blood sample. Individuals interested in receiving an HIV test can contact the following agencies:

CommuniCare Health Centers - Peterson Clinic

8 N. Cottonwood Street, Woodland, 95776 (530) 666-8960, call for an appointment

John H. Jones Community Clinic

500B Jefferson Blvd. #180, West Sacramento, 95605 (916) 371-1966, call for an appointment

Harm Reduction Services

3647 40th Street, Sacramento, 95817 (916) 456-4849, call for location of testing

Safer Alternatives thru Networking and Education

(916) 968 – 1563, call for location of testing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that over 1 million Americans are living with HIV, and nearly 250,000 are unaware of their HIV infection. At a local level, it is estimated that over 5,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Sacramento area. In Yolo County, it is estimated that over 316 people have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and over 124 local residents have lost their lives to the disease. For people who test positive for HIV, learning their HIV test results will help them take steps to protect their own health and that of

their partners. For those who test negative, learning their HIV status can help them get the information and support they need to stay uninfected.

For further information on HIV/AIDS education, prevention, testing, and treatment, contact the Yolo County Health Department HIV/AIDS Program at (530) 666-8645. For further information about National HIV Testing Day, see www.napwa.org or www.hivtest.org

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