

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ONE MILLION INFECTED, 25% UNAWARE**  
**Free HIV testing on December 1 to promote early diagnosis**

**WHAT:** Free HIV testing in honor of World AIDS Day  
**WHEN:** **TODAY** - Monday, December 1  
**WHERE:** Planned Parenthood health centers

To commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World AIDS Day on Monday, December 1, Planned Parenthood will be offering free HIV tests at its health centers in Joplin and Springfield, Missouri.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than one million people in the United States are now living with HIV, and approximately 25% are unaware of their infection. It can take someone up to ten years to develop HIV symptoms and in that ten year interim, one person without symptoms may unknowingly infect someone else.

“Getting a HIV test can be the difference between life and death. If you are sexually active, it is important to get tested to keep yourself and your partner safe,” says Paula Gianino, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Missouri.

World AIDS Day is a day dedicated to bringing attention to the world AIDS epidemic and what steps can be taken to prevent the spread of HIV. Planned Parenthood is dedicated to bringing attention to all of our reproductive health concerns.

**For more information call 417.781.6500 or visit [plannedparenthood.org/swmo](http://plannedparenthood.org/swmo).**

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