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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free HIV Testing Available to the Public on Friday, June 26

To recognize and promote National HIV Testing Day, on Friday, June 26, the HIV Alliance will offer free Rapid HIV antibody tests. Rapid HIV Antibody testing allows people to get their test results within 20 minutes.

This is the first time HIV Alliance is offering free testing to the general public, thanks to sponsorship by the **National Association of People Living with AIDS** in association with the **Mayors Campaign Against HIV**. This year the **HIV Alliance**, in partnership with **Lane County Public Health**, is offering up to 100 Rapid HIV Tests free of charge to anyone who wants to know their status. Testing will be available from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at HIV Alliance, located at 1966 Garden Avenue in Eugene. **Due to a limited number of test providers, testing will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Testing is encouraged for people who are at a higher risk for contracting HIV including men who have sex with men; persons who inject drugs or who have sex with a person known to have HIV, and for persons who have a history of sexually transmitted infections or engaging in unprotected sex.

There will be a press conference at 1pm on June 26 at HIV Alliance with Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, who will issue a proclamation in support of National HIV Testing Day as well as demonstrate the ease of taking an oral HIV test.

Each year the **National Association of People Living with AIDS**, in partnership with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and other national and local entities across the country organizes National HIV Testing Day. This unique initiative sends the message, ***“Take the Test, Take Control,”*** to those at risk of HIV from those already living with HIV. Today, CDC estimates approximately 250,000 Americans are living with HIV but unaware of their HIV status. HIV testing is a critical first step in taking control and responsibility over one’s health.

HIV Alliance: Supporting individuals living with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections. For more information about HIV Alliance, visit www.hivalliance.org