

**THURSDAY
JUNE 26, 2008**

Area clinics to offer free HIV tests Friday

BY KAREN SHIDELER

The Wichita Eagle

Two years ago, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that everybody ages 13 to 64 be tested for HIV as part of their routine medical care.

But because the test still is not routine for most people, each June 27 is designated as National HIV Testing Day, and clinics throughout the United States offer fast, free testing that day, on a walk-in basis.

In addition to recommending routine testing, the CDC also says that women should be tested early in each pregnancy, to help eliminate the spread of HIV to infants.

These local sites will offer

free testing Friday:

■ Sedgwick County Health Department, 1900 E. Ninth St., 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Testing also will be offered at the clinic location, 2716 W. Central, but it won't offer rapid results.

■ Midtown Clinic, 1125 N. Topeka, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Hunter Health Clinic, 2318 E. Central, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ask for Bonnie or Tabatha.

■ Positive Directions, 414 S. Commerce, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A tester also will be present during the Final Friday art crawl, from 6 to 10 p.m.

■ Butler County Health Department, 206 N. Griffith in El Dorado, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rapid-results tests won't be used.