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Free HIV testing to be offered Thursday in Middletown as part of National HIV Testing Day

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MIDDLETOWN >> "Take the test. Take control" is the slogan of this year's National HIV Testing Day and Middletown will be participating along with towns all over the country.

The Oasis Wellness Center, which falls under the Community Health Center, will be offering free HIV testing on Thursday, June 27, in honor of National HIV Testing Day.

Testing will be available at 675 Main St. at the Peace and Health Building during regular business hours. Testing is confidential and free.

"Oasis is a social support center for people living with the virus and is a critical source of care, case management, and social engagement," explained Kasey Harding, program director for Integrated Care for Special Populations, in a press release by Community Health Center. "HIV can affect many components of a patient's everyday life, and although there is no cure, our providers make sure that patients obtain the comprehensive care they deserve."

According to statistics by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV affects nearly 1 in 5 adults who have the disease, but are unaware of it. The CDC recommends that all people between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested at least once, while gay or bisexual men, people with multiple sexual partners and injection drug users should get tested more often.

During the Community Health Center's event, people will be on the street handing out fliers and water bottles, encouraging people to come in and get tested, health officials said.

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