



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H..  
Secretary of Health

PRESS RELEASE 6-26-2007  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: TIM O'CONNOR  
561-355-3576 FAX 355-3035

## **BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS TO TEST FOR HIV JUNE 27**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY—64% or 1 in 42** HIV/AIDS cases in the county are from the black community.

During HIV Test Day, June 27, 2007 Black Elected Officials will be tested and speaking about the need for greater awareness of this disease and its devastating effects on the black community.

**At 10:00 AM at the Riviera Beach Health Center**, 7289 Garden Road, County Commissioner Addie Greene, Supervisor of Elections Arthur Anderson and other black elected officials will be available to answer questions and receive the Orasure HIV test.

Each year about 2% of the people tested find out that they are HIV positive. This number along with those who have a clinical diagnosis results in almost 400 new cases reported annually. Currently, over 2700 people are living with HIV and another 4000 have AIDS. Persons involved in the research and tracking of this disease estimate there are another 1700 people in the county unaware they are HIV positive or have AIDS.

This year a number of sites are also offering STD testing for Hepatitis A, B, C, and Syphilis. Although treatable it is very important to get tested for these and other STD's like gonorrhea and Chlamydia as it can stop the 1,000 new infections annually.

"I would like to see everyone tested as an annual routine," said Health Department Director Jean Malecki, M.D. "But especially those who have participated in unprotected sexual activity, shared injection needles during drug use, tattooing, or piercing or had a blood transfusion prior to 1985."

A complete list of sites is available by calling 211 or through the following websites, [www.pbchd.com](http://www.pbchd.com), [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org), or [www.PBCSAC.org](http://www.PBCSAC.org).

-30-



Post office Box 29 / 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402  
Jean M. Malecki, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director  
[www.pbchd.com](http://www.pbchd.com)