



Alere Partners with Local and National Stakeholders in Support of National HIV Testing Day

Activities include donating HIV tests to local AIDS service organizations and participating in a Congressional briefing on HIV testing

WALTHAM, Mass., June 23, 2015 – Leading up to and following National HIV Testing Day on June 27, Alere Inc., a global leader in rapid diagnostic tests, is supporting local HIV screening events nationwide and participating in a Congressional briefing on HIV testing.

Alere is donating Alere Determine™ HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab Combo tests to more than 180 AIDS service organizations as part of a [free testing program](#) co-sponsored by Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS, which will provide free testing at Walgreens stores in 150 cities across the country. Alere is also donating tests to [Houston Hits Home](#), a free HIV testing event sponsored by the Houston Health Foundation that aims to screen 1,500 at-risk individuals in the Houston area from July 7-10.

National HIV Testing Day is an annual observance that promotes testing as an important strategy to detect, treat and prevent HIV infection. The event's theme, "Take the Test. Take Control.," reflects the importance of knowing one's HIV status and taking control by initiating HIV treatment if infected with the virus.

On June 27, Alere's Director of Marketing for Virology Solutions, Joe Medeiros, will discuss advances in testing technology during a Congressional briefing, "The Importance of HIV Testing: Policies, Programs, and Strategies," which is being convened by [The AIDS Institute](#) and the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus.

"Initiating antiretroviral treatment as soon as possible is critical for improving health outcomes and reducing transmission of the HIV virus, and can only be achieved through testing," said Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director, The AIDS Institute. "We welcome the perspectives of Alere and other stakeholders in HIV prevention and treatment in developing new technologies to increase screening rates in the United States."

"Because today's newer point-of-care, fourth-generation HIV tests offer unprecedented speed and accuracy and can detect HIV only days after infection, they are instrumental in breaking the cycle of infection," said Medeiros. "We are pleased to make our fourth-generation rapid HIV test available to groups across the country and to help raise awareness of and encourage HIV testing."

According to the [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), there are approximately 1.2 million Americans living with HIV, and an estimated 168,300 (14%) whose infections

have not been diagnosed. In 2010, the CDC estimated that there were 47,500 newly infected people with the virus in the United States, indicating that HIV remains a serious health problem. HIV testing is essential for healthcare and social services to improve the quality of life and survival for persons who have HIV.

About Alere

Alere believes that when diagnosing and monitoring health conditions, **Knowing now matters™**. Alere delivers on this vision by delivering reliable and actionable information through rapid diagnostic tests, enhancing clinical and economic health outcomes globally. Headquartered in Waltham, Mass., Alere focuses on rapid diagnostics for infectious disease, cardiometabolic disease and toxicology. For more information on Alere, please visit www.alere.com.

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