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**BR+NX
KN-WS**

WHAT'S YOUR HIV STATUS?

stay safe + get care ? get tested

News from The Bronx Knows

Primary Care Providers Join Initiative

Health Department representatives recently visited private medical practices throughout the Bronx to discuss routine HIV testing and The Bronx Knows testing initiative. Representatives distributed Bronx HIV Testing Action Kits with clinical tools, provider resources and patient education materials during visits. Thanks to these efforts, several Bronx primary care providers, including Arthur Hall, MD and Jamie F. Roman, MD, have joined The Bronx Knows initiative and established or expanded routine HIV screening in their practices.



Dear Partners:

Welcome to the Summer 2011 *News from The Bronx Knows*.

Since our last issue, we launched Brooklyn Knows, a borough-wide scale up of HIV testing to help every Brooklyn resident learn his or her HIV status over the next four years. Building on the groundbreaking success and leadership of The Bronx Knows, the Brooklyn initiative aims to offer an HIV test to every Brooklynite and link those who are HIV positive to quality care and services.

Inside you'll find details about recent borough-wide testing events and what's on the horizon for The Bronx Knows, as well as answers to frequently asked questions about pre-test information and what's considered a rapid HIV test under the new testing law. We've also featured Bronx Community College as our final partner of the quarter, for their commitment to offering HIV testing and education on campus.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks for your contributions to HIV testing and raising HIV awareness throughout the Bronx. We've accomplished more together than any of us could have done alone. Thank you for your support and continued commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

New York Knows Launches Facebook Page

New York Knows recently launched a Facebook page where friends and fans can share support and information about services. The new page provides a place for users to discuss HIV prevention, awareness and related issues. It also includes borough-specific sections where users can learn about partner accomplishments, link to partner websites and search for HIV testing sites in their neighborhood. Visit us at facebook.com/NYCKnows – and become a fan.



HIV Testing Events

During this winter's HIV/AIDS awareness days, community partners hosted free HIV testing and education events across the borough. We thank the following partners for organizing activities:

World AIDS Day

- Bronx AIDS Services
- Bronx Community College
- BronxWorks
- Community Healthcare Network
- Institute for Family Health, Urban Horizons
- James J. Peters VA Medical Center
- Lehman College
- Montefiore Medical Center
- Morris Heights Health Center
- Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center
- Segundo Ruiz Belvis Diagnostic and Treatment Center
- St. Barnabas Hospital
- United Bronx Parents, La Casa de Salud

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

- Bronx AIDS Services
- BronxWorks
- Care for the Homeless
- Montefiore Medical Center
- Morris Heights Health Center
- Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development
- Segundo Ruiz Belvis Diagnostic and Treatment Center
- St. Barnabas Hospital
- United Bronx Parents, La Casa de Salud

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

- Bronx AIDS Services
- Dominican Sisters Family Health Service
- Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development
- Segundo Ruiz Belvis Diagnostic and Treatment Center



Partner of the Quarter: Bronx Community College

Congratulations to Bronx Community College (BCC) for their commitment to making free HIV testing and education available to students.

The college joined The Bronx Knows partners Hispanic AIDS Forum and Albert Einstein College of Medicine to offer free HIV testing and education events on campus throughout the year.

“The events give students the opportunity to learn more about sexual health, get tested and pick up free NYC condoms and HIV education materials,” said BCC’s Health Services Director Dorothy Miller. “We’re proud to have worked with the New York City Health Department and our community partners to help ensure that ‘The Bronx Knows.’”



We applaud Bronx Community College for their dedication to serving younger residents of the Bronx and for helping to make HIV testing routine and accessible.



Ask Dr. Sweeney

Q What are the requirements for presenting the seven key facts about HIV before giving an HIV test?

A Before being asked to consent to HIV testing, people must be given the “seven points of information” about HIV. The information can be given one-on-one or in a group session, or in writing, such as a poster, brochure or video. For more information about the “seven points of information,” visit health.state.ny.us.

Q Are consent forms required to include the “seven points of information?”

A Consent forms are not required to include the seven points. For model forms, visit health.state.ny.us.

Q What is considered a rapid HIV test under the new HIV testing law?

A A rapid HIV test is an HIV screening test that produces results in 60 minutes or less. These include point-of-care tests, such as OraQuick Advance, UniGold Recombigen, Clearview Complete and StatPak, and HIV tests that run on multiplatform analyzers, such as Abbott Architect, Ortho Vitros and Advia Centaur.

We Need Your Help

As we come to the end of our third year, your HIV testing data are more crucial than ever. Please submit your data to <https://hivtest.nycompas.com>.

On the Horizon

At the end of June, The Bronx Knows will move into the next phase, in which our community partners will take the lead. Under the steering committee's leadership, partner agencies will continue to work together to coordinate HIV services and testing activities throughout the borough.

The Health Department will continue to play a key role in the initiative by helping partners with ongoing technical assistance and support, providing free rapid HIV testing kits at special events and sponsoring the New York Knows media campaign to support the community's efforts.

