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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY
June 27, 2009

ORLANDO - The Orange County Health Department (OCHD) joins community partners to encourage all Orange County residents and visitors to get tested during the 13th Annual National HIV Testing Day. On Saturday, June 27, 2009, the Orange County Health Department will be offering free confidential rapid HIV testing as well as Syphilis, and Hepatitis testing at the Hispanic Health Initiatives "*Festival de la Familia*" event from 8:00am - 3:00pm at the Central Florida Fairgrounds located at 4603 West Colonial Drive.

"The main goal of National HIV Testing Day is to motivate people to take the test and take control of their lives. HIV testing should become a routine," said Dr. Kevin M. Sherin, Director of the Orange County Health Department.

A National HIV Testing Day Community Health fair will also take place Saturday, June 27, 2009 from 10:00am – 3:00pm at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church located at 813 Pine Avenue, Sanford, Florida. Free HIV rapid testing will be available.

It is estimated that every 9 and a half minutes, someone becomes infected with HIV in the United States. Florida ranks 3rd in the nation for Adult/Adolescent HIV/AIDS cases and 2nd in the nation for Pediatric cases. As of March 2009, Orlando had 6,546 cases of presumed persons living with HIV/AIDS. Early HIV diagnosis is critical, so people can fully benefit from available treatment.

For more information about these National HIV Testing Day events, please contact Tai Cocchia at 407-375-8240, or visit the OCHD website at www.orchd.com. For additional information about how to get tested, please contact your primary health care provider or the Orange County Health Department.

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"Promote, Protect and Improve the Health of All People in Orange County, Florida"