



# DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Davis County Courthouse Complex  
PO Box 618  
Farmington, Utah 84025

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**Contact:**  
Bob Ballew  
Public Information Officer  
Office: (801) 451-3501  
Cell: (801) 510-5710

## Administration

Lewis R. Garrett, M.P.H.  
Director of Health  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3351  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## Environmental Health Services Division

David W. Spence,  
M.B.A., E.H.S.  
Associate Director  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3354  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## Family Health & Senior Services Division

Sally Kershnik,  
R.N., M.P.A.  
Associate Director  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3354  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Division

Brian E. Hatch,  
M.P.H., E.H.S.  
Associate Director  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3351  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## News Release

### Free Rapid HIV Tests Offered In Davis County

(Farmington, Utah) – Utah’s HIV Awareness Week is June 27 through July 3, 2010, with June 27 being National HIV Testing Day. During this week, people who are at risk for HIV infection are encouraged to “take the test, take control” and seek out HIV counseling and testing.

In conjunction with this awareness week, free HIV tests and other sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing will be offered in partnership with the Davis County Health Department and Midtown Community Health Center.

Rapid HIV testing will only be offered Wednesday, June 30, and Friday, July 2, 2010. The clinic is located at 50 East State Street, Farmington, Utah. Appointments are not needed. Walk-ins are welcome. Hours on both days are 8 a.m.-noon and 2-4:30 p.m.

Lewis Garrett, director of the Davis County Health Department, said, “Anyone who has ever had unprotected sex or shared needles with a partner whose HIV status was unknown should consider being tested for HIV.”

“The only way to find out if you have HIV infection is to get tested,” Garrett said.

“Knowledge of HIV status is essential. If you test positive for HIV, you can access necessary treatment and take precautions to prevent infecting others.”

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In Davis County, 10 new cases of HIV were identified in 2009. Approximately 162 residents have been diagnosed and are living with HIV/AIDS. This under-represents the actual number of individuals who are infected with HIV and have not been tested, according to Garrett.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. Almost 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they have progressed to AIDS. This can be up to 20 years after they first became infected with the virus. “Finding out your HIV status is the first step to improving your health and the health of your partners,” Garrett said.

National HIV Testing Day was created in 1995 by the National Association of People with AIDS to encourage people at risk for HIV infection to get tested for HIV and take control of their health. For more information, visit [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org)

Information about the Davis County HIV testing days is available by calling the Davis County Health Department Disease Hotline at 801-451-3661 or by visiting [www.daviscountyutah.gov/health](http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/health). All calls are confidential.

Free STD/HIV testing is a service regularly offered by the Midtown Community Health Center – Davis County Medical Clinic. To make an appointment, call 801-451-3711.

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