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Cascade AIDS Project



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIV Testing for All

Cascade AIDS Project now offers 20 minute HIV testing and counseling to anyone who requests it

August 27, 2010 - Portland, OR –Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) announces Rapid HIV tests are now available to anyone seeking one from their offices at 208 SW 5th Avenue, 8th floor. CAP previously only offered this test to high risk populations. Today, anyone can get a rapid HIV test, risk reduction counseling, and results in just 20 minutes, Monday through Friday, 10AM – 4PM by appointment or drop in. The test is offered for a suggested donation of \$25 and can be administered confidentially or anonymously.

“This is a great opportunity,” said Dr. Brian Wong, Director of OHSU’s Division of Infectious Diseases and a Board Member for CAP. “Generally, a test in a doctor’s office is a blood draw and the results take a week or longer. Risk reduction counseling is rarely offered. Before now, if you wanted a rapid HIV test in Portland by a technician trained in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention risk reduction counseling, you had to be part of a population they considered high risk. The fact is, HIV impacts many populations, and everyone should know their HIV status.”

Executive Director, Michael Kaplan said, “We know the virus has not gone away. Every 9.5 minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV. No one is immune—gay, straight, whatever. This is a preventable disease, but folks need to know their status and how to prevent infection. The HIV Rapid Test makes getting tested easier as it only takes 20 minutes for the test and 30 minutes for the appointment. Our offices take some of the fear away from getting tested as this is what we do- we’re here to help prevent further spread of the virus and support those who may be infected.”

CAP began offering testing to all in early July with no advertising. So far, each day between two and four people have requested testing. The reasons some folks have taken advantage of Testing For All are varied, but these testimonies tell us the service is needed:

- One man got tested at CAP because he was struggling to use protection with his female partners and wanted help breaking the cycle of risk behavior.
- A woman got tested at CAP because her partner put her at risk by his sexual activity outside of their relationship.

- A man got tested at CAP because his partner had contracted HIV a year into their relationship.
- A man got tested at CAP after temporary homelessness led to a relapse into injection drug use after 5 years sober.
- A couple got tested at CAP because they wanted to start off a new relationship empowered by knowing their HIV status.

Those seeking a test can call 503.223.5907 to schedule an appointment or just drop by from 10AM-4PM and ask for a test. To learn more about the HIV Rapid Test, go to www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/testing/rapid/.

About Cascade AIDS Project

Founded in 1983, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our mission is to lead efforts to prevent new HIV infections, care for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, educate communities to eliminate stigma and shame, and advocate for immediate action in combating the pandemic.

With a staff of 48, and a volunteer corps that includes over 700 individuals providing 20,000 hours of service each year, CAP manages a diverse array of programs and an annual budget of \$4.6 million. Fifteen percent of CAP's staff are individuals living with HIV, 25% identify from communities of color, and 30% are bilingual. Our programs serve the broad and diverse set of communities impacted by HIV from community-specific programs focused on teens, Latinos, the gay community, individuals and families living with HIV, to the thousands of individuals throughout the state who seek education through our AIDS/STD hotline each year.

A committed 15-member volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic guidance and oversight to ensure CAP accomplishes its mission and continues to operate with integrity and transparency. www.cascadeaids.org.

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