



## Alere Supports National HIV Testing Day

*Partners with Chicagoland HIV Testing Collaborative, encouraging Chicago residents to get tested for HIV*

**WALTHAM, Mass., June 26, 2014** – Alere Inc., a global leader in empowering individuals to take greater control of their health at home by connecting innovative diagnostics in the hands of patients to their healthcare providers, is partnering with various health departments and nonprofit organizations across the United States to support HIV testing events for National HIV Testing Day, taking place tomorrow. Alere is donating free test kits and making local grants to support the events, which are organized to raise awareness about HIV testing and encourage attendees to get tested for the virus.

National HIV Testing Day is an annual observance that promotes testing as an important strategy to detect, treat and prevent HIV infection. This year, the campaign encourages people of all ages to “Take the Test. Take Control.”

One of the local events that Alere is supporting is the Chicagoland HIV Testing Collaborative initiative, [\*Step Up. Get Tested.\*](#) With the goal to test 5,000 individuals for HIV between June 5<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup>, *Step Up. Get Tested.* is sponsoring testing events throughout the summer on Chicago’s North, South and West sides, as well as the south suburbs. Each testing event includes access to free rapid HIV testing services, education and support resources. A full list of testing events is available at [www.StepUpGetTested.com](http://www.StepUpGetTested.com)

“We deeply appreciate Alere’s support of the *Step Up. Get Tested.* initiative. Alere’s rapid tests allow members of Chicago’s most at-risk communities to know their HIV status quickly and accurately, so they don’t unknowingly spread the virus to others,” said Kimberly Cleveland, *Step Up. Get Tested.* co-chairperson.

According to the [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), there are approximately 1.2 million Americans living with HIV, and an estimated 207,000 (18%) 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.

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### **About Alere**

By developing new capabilities in near-patient diagnosis, monitoring and health information technology, Alere enables individuals to take charge of improving their health and quality of life at home. Alere's global leading products and services, as well as its new product development efforts, focus on infectious disease, toxicology, cardiology and diabetes. Alere is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. For more information regarding Alere, please visit [www.alere.com](http://www.alere.com).

### **About the Chicagoland HIV Testing Collaborative**

*Step Up. Get Tested.* is a unified effort supported by the Chicagoland HIV Testing Collaborative – a group of community and public health organizations that have joined forces to promote HIV testing in the city's most at-risk communities. For a full list of initiative partners visit [www.StepUpGetTested.com/partner-agencies](http://www.StepUpGetTested.com/partner-agencies).

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