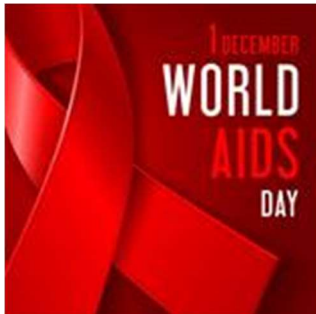




# WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1, 2020



World AIDS Day is today, December 1, and while the world is consumed by COVID-19, we must not minimize that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome remains a very serious epidemic.

Much like *social distancing* and *PPE* are common in everyday language today, the phrase ***universal precautions*** was elevated into our vocabulary prominence. Universal precautions, social distancing and PPE application should all continue to be exercised as we protect ourselves and our loved ones.

The theme for the 2020 observance is “*Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact.*”

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to celebrate and support global efforts to prevent new HIV infections, increase HIV awareness and knowledge, and support those living with HIV.

HIV is a virus that attacks the immune system and can lead to AIDS, a clinical diagnosis that indicates an advanced stage of HIV.

Almost 1 million people die across the globe each year due to HIV/AIDS and in some countries, it remains the leading cause of death.

According to the federal government, at the end of 2018 more than 1.2 million people aged 13 years and older were living with HIV in the United States. Many others are at risk of HIV infection, and an estimated 40,000 additional individuals are expected to be diagnosed each year.



Despite these numbers, significant medical advancements have been made in the development of effective HIV treatments that allow people living with HIV to suppress their virus to undetectable levels and avoid transmitting it to others.

Please see the resources below that can help you learn about HIV/AIDS and the supports available here in Connecticut and around the world:

- <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/AIDS--Chronic-Diseases/Care/HIVAIDS-Services-in-Connecticut>
- <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/news/events/world-aids-day>
- [https://www.unaids.org/en/World\\_AIDS\\_Day](https://www.unaids.org/en/World_AIDS_Day)
- <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/wad2020>
- <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/world-aids-day>