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Contact:  
Porfirio Villarreal  
713-794-9021

### **Latino HIV Task Force to offer free HIV testing Oct. 15**

The Latino HIV Task Force, a group of health agencies and community organizations, will offer free HIV testing October 15 as part of the third annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

Testing will be provided from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Almeda Mall, 12200 Gulf Freeway; Northwest Mall, 9930 Hempstead Highway (I-610 & U.S. 290); Community Family Center, 7514 Avenue E and Club Carnaval, 8150 Southwest Freeway.

Hispanics in Houston and Harris County represent 19 percent of the 11,689 HIV infections reported to the Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) since 1999. They also make up 16 percent of the 22,680 local AIDS cases reported to the department since the start of the epidemic in 1981.

HDHHS convened the task force in 2002 to help increase education and awareness of HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases among Hispanics.

The task force is comprised of 19 health agencies and community-based organizations that administer HIV and AIDS prevention programs or medical treatment and various community organizations.

For more information, call 713-794-2908.

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