



**Mayor Muriel Bowser Proclaims July 16th as PrEP Awareness Day in Washington, DC;
Whitman-Walker Will Hold a Press Conference at its
Max Robinson Center in Ward 8 with Comments by Clover Barnes, Senior Deputy
Director for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA)**

Washington, DC (July 11, 2024): – Whitman-Walker, a leader in LGBTQ health care, research, education and policy with special expertise in HIV care, is proud to join Mayor Muriel Bowser in announcing the proclamation of July 16, 2024, as PrEP Awareness Day in Washington, DC. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the life-saving benefits of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and its critical role in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

July 16th Press Conference

A press conference will be held at Whitman-Walker's Max Robinson Center in Ward 8's Congress Heights neighborhood to commemorate the occasion. Mayor Bowser will be represented by Ms. Clover Barnes, Senior Deputy Director for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA).

Time: 11am

Location: Whitman-Walker's Max Robinson Center, 1201 Sycamore Dr. SE, Washington, DC 20032 – 3rd floor.

The Facts

HIV/AIDS continues to be a significant public health challenge, with over 1.2 million people in the United States living with HIV and thousands of new infections each year. To combat this, PrEP, an FDA-approved medication, has proven to reduce the risk of HIV infection by up to 99% when taken as prescribed. Approved by the FDA on July 16, 2012, PrEP is a cornerstone of comprehensive HIV prevention strategies, offering an effective tool for men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, cis-gender women, heterosexual individuals with HIV-positive partners, and people who inject drugs.

Despite its proven efficacy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), less than 25% of the approximately 1.2 million Americans who could benefit from PrEP are currently using it. This statistic underscores the need for enhanced public education and outreach to ensure that more individuals, especially those in marginalized communities, are aware of and have access to PrEP.

"PrEP Awareness Day is a vital step in our ongoing commitment to health equity and the fight against HIV/AIDS," said Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia. "By increasing awareness and accessibility of PrEP, we can protect our most vulnerable populations and move closer to ending the HIV epidemic."

PrEP Awareness Day supports the goals of the federal initiative "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America," which aims to reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 90% by 2030. The City of Washington, DC, is dedicated to advancing health equity and ensuring that all residents have access to life-saving interventions such as PrEP, regardless of their socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

“Whitman-Walker Health has led DC’s efforts in implementing PrEP as an effective prevention strategy. PrEP Awareness Day is our call to action to provide access to and education on this effective medication to prevent HIV in our communities, particularly vulnerable communities. It’s a reminder that we can have control over our sexual and overall health on our own terms,” said Juan Carlos Loubriel, Senior Director of Community Health and Wellness, Whitman-Walker Health. “If we are serious about ending the HIV epidemic, we must continue to address health inequities and increase access and education to PrEP for everyone.”

Whitman-Walker echoes Mayor Bowser's call upon all District residents, healthcare providers, and community organizations to participate in efforts to increase awareness, understanding, and accessibility of PrEP. Through collective action, we can work towards a future free from HIV and ensure the health and safety of all community members.

For more information about PrEP and local resources, please visit <https://www.whitman-walker.org/health-services/prevention-care/prep/>.

PrEP Awareness Happy Hour Events

In honor of PrEP Awareness Day, Whitman-Walker will be hosting two Happy Hour events in the coming weeks to educate the public about PrEP while also enjoying a cocktail on us.

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 5-8pm

THURST Lounge

2204 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Wednesday, July 24, 2024, from 6-9pm

Sycamore & Oak

1110 Oak Dr. SE, Washington, DC 20032

(on the St. Elizabeths East campus)

About Whitman-Walker

For over fifty years, Whitman-Walker has been part of the fabric of the local DC and national community as first responder and care-provider for those living with HIV; a leader in LGBTQ care and advocacy; a research center working to discover breakthroughs in HIV treatment and prevention science; and one of the DC’s most trusted partners during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Whitman-Walker envisions a society where all people are seen for who they are, treated with dignity and respect, and afforded equal opportunity to health and wellbeing. More info can be found at: www.whitman-walker.org.

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