



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life Pushes for Condom Use during Safer Sex Week

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AIDS
Support for Life**

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Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) has ramped up activities to mark Safer Sex Week in a bid to encourage more persons to use condoms and engage in safer sex practices year-round, in particular during this time of year.

Observed during the week of February 11-17, Safer Sex Week eclipses Condom Day and Valentine's Day, which will both be celebrated on Wednesday. The day is also in recognition of the tendency by some individuals to engage in risky sexual behaviours including refusing to use a condom, practices which make them vulnerable for HIV and other STIs.

In a 2012 Knowledge and Activities Survey, 46.9 per cent of persons surveyed said they did not use a condom when engaging in sexual intercourse with their significant other as they "love" and "trust" their partners.

JASL's Safer Sex Week activities, which kicked off (Sunday) with a health fair at the Negril Convention Centre moved into high gear yesterday (Monday) with condom demonstrations, sensitisation sessions, HIV testing and a wealth of information on safer sex practices for students and faculty at the Montego Bay Community Centre.

Meanwhile, in St. Ann, the intervention team took to the streets with their test kits for 'Walk, Talk and Test', engaging persons and providing on-the-spot HIV and syphilis tests to residents of St. Ann's Bay and its environs.

JASL, which will wrap up its week of activities (see enclosed full list of activities for the week) with a mass testing in Mandela Park in Half Way Tree on Friday and in Lucea, Hanover on Saturday, is encouraging persons to get tested in order to know their HIV status as the ultimate demonstration of their love for their partners.

Approximately 30,000 Jamaicans are living with HIV however, about 15 per cent of those infected do not know they are carrying the virus.

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life provides a wide range of HIV & AIDS-related support services, free of cost, through its chapters in Kingston, St. Ann's Bay and Montego Bay.

Activities for this year's Safer Sex Week are funded by AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

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"LOVE, ACTION & SUPPORT"

'SAFER SEX' WEEK ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Health Fair Misty Blue Cancer Foundation Negril Conventon Centre, Negril 10:00 a.m.	HIV & AIDS Rap Session Alpha Boys' School 10:00 a.m.	Prevention: HIV 101 (Rap Session) Caron Hall High School 10:00 a.m.	VALENTINE'S DAY USE A CONDOM, EVERYTIME!	Health Fair UWI Western Campus, St. James 10:00 a.m.	Mass Testing Mandela Park, Half Way Tree Kingston 10:00 a.m.	Mass Testing Lucea Bus Park, Hanover 10:00 a.m.
Walk, Talk & Test St. Ann's' Bay, St. Ann 2:00 p.m.	HIV & AIDS Information Session Sandals Beaches Resort, Negril 10:00 a.m.			Teleperformance BPO Montego Bay Freezone, Montego Bay, St. James 10:00 a.m.	Health Fair Brown's Town Bus Park St. Ann 10:00 a.m.	
	HIV Testing & Condom Demonstration Montego Bay Community College 10:00 a.m.			Walk, Talk & Test Albert Town and Wait-A-Bit, Trelawny 10:00 a.m.		

"LOVE, ACTION & SUPPORT"