



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2021

## **IPHA and IDPH Partner to Launch SMS Health Alerts Program for Illinois Residents**

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services, (IDPH) are partnering to launch a mobile Short Message Service (SMS) program for Illinois residents this week. This free opt-in alert program provides resources on HIV testing locations, PrEP clinic locations, medicine reminders, appointment reminders, ADAP Re-certification reminders, and COVID-19 information, all from a mobile device. This program is designed to raise awareness around and connect residents to HIV and COVID-19 prevention and treatment resources throughout the state.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 7 people living with HIV are unaware of their status. In 2018, Illinois ranked at number six in the top 10 states with number of new HIV diagnoses among adults and adolescents. To date, there have been more than 1.1 million cases of COVID-19 reported in Illinois, with 19,739 deaths.

This texting program runs on the short code 36363, and all Illinoisans with a mobile device can opt in. There is no charge for this service, however standard message and data rates may apply.

### **HIV Test Center Locator**

Users can text IL (English) or CENTRO (Spanish) plus an Illinois zip code to 36363, and the SMS program will respond with the name, phone number, and CDC NPIN link for up to three HIV test centers within a 10-mile radius of the entered zip code. If there are no test centers within 10 miles, the program extends its search to a 25-mile radius.

### **PrEP Clinic Locator**

Users can text PREP (English) or RX (Spanish) with an Illinois zip code to 36363, and the SMS program will respond with the name, phone number, and CDC NPIN link for up to three PrEP clinics within a 10-mile radius of the entered zip code. If there are no clinics within 10 miles, the program extends its search to a 25-mile radius.

### **Medicine Reminders**

Users can text MED (English) or MED ESP (Spanish) to 36363, and the SMS program will guide the user through scheduling daily, twice daily, or weekly medication reminder messages. These messages do not contain medication details to help keep user information confidential.

### **Appointment Reminders**

Users can text APPT (English) or CITA (Spanish) to 36363, and the SMS program will guide the user through scheduling an appointment reminder message that is sent one hour before, 24 hours before, or one week before the user's appointment. These reminders are general, and do not include specific details about appointments to help keep user information confidential.

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**ADAP Re-Certification Reminders**

Users can text ADAP (English) or ADAP ESP (Spanish) to 36363, and the SMS program will ask the user when their last ADAP re-certification appointment was. After the user enters the last re-certification date, the program schedules a reminder message for 6 months after the last re-certification date.

**COVID-19 Public Communication**

Users can text COVID (English) or COVID ESP (Spanish) to 36363 to receive COVID-19 updates about guidance, testing, and vaccination.

**Program Menu**

Users can text MENU (English) or MENU ESP (Spanish) to 36363 at any time to receive a menu of available programs. Users can select a program from the menu list to learn more details about the program, including how to enroll.

Message and data rates may apply. Users can reply STOP or AYUDA to 36363 to stop receiving messages. Reply HELP or ALTO to receive program information. [View the privacy policy and terms here.](#)

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