



**For Planning Purposes Only**

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**Monday, April 18: Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, Amida Care, Destination Tomorrow Hold Press Conference on National Transgender HIV Testing Day**

*Elected officials and advocates will outline health disparities faced by people of transgender experience in the Bronx, and encourage New Yorkers to get tested for HIV*

**WHAT:**

On Monday, April 18 at 10:00am, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and Amida Care, a not-for-profit New York community health plan, will be joined by advocates and health care providers on National Transgender HIV Testing Day for a press conference at Destination Tomorrow (2134 Barnes Avenue) in the Bronx. They will be highlighting the health disparities faced by people of transgender experience in the Bronx, and encouraging them to get tested to learn their HIV status and learn about HIV prevention and treatment. Testing for COVID and vaccinations will also be available. Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson will issue a Proclamation declaring the date “National Transgender HIV Testing Day” in the Bronx and announce the relaunching of the Bronx LGBTQ Taskforce.

The trans community continues to be disproportionately impacted by HIV. Transgender women are estimated to be 49 times more likely to be living with HIV compared to the general population. Additionally, the Bronx had the second highest number of new HIV diagnoses in 2020, and the highest percentage of HIV deaths. Due to the COVID pandemic, HIV testing slowed dramatically. HIV testing in New York conducted through AIDS Institute-funded sites averaged well over 2,500 tests per month in 2019. But that tally dipped below 500 tests per month in April 2020 and did not reach 2,000 tests in any given month through June 2021.

**WHO:**

Mimi Shelton, Director of Trans Initiatives, Destination Tomorrow

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson

Sandrine Blake, Assistant Director of Member Events, Amida Care

Dr. Binu Kuriakose, Medical Director, Urgent Care, Essen Health Care

Lailani Muniz, Bronx activist, Amida Care member, Damian Family Care Center employee

**WHEN:**

Monday, April 18

10:00AM

Media Check-in at 9:45AM

**WHERE:**

Destination Tomorrow

2134 Barnes Avenue

Bronx, NY 10462

**CONTACT:**

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**Amida Care Inc.** is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit [www.amidacareny.org](http://www.amidacareny.org).