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:
Email scroce@amidacareny.org

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.