

Students have options for STD testing

Alex Quintana | Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, September 8, 2010 11:20 am

Human Immunodeficiency Virus affects approximately 1.1 million Americans, according to Center for Disease Control estimates, and about one in five people living with HIV has not had their infection diagnosed or reported. At New Mexico State University, students have many options to get tested and seek help.

Susie Duss, chief medical technologist at the Student Health Center, takes blood test and said most results can come back in one to two days. Tests are free for full time students and cost 12\$ per test for those who aren't. Additional costs are possible if further testing is required. The center also provides full STD testing. Duss said their tests are 100% confidential and results will not be put on any registry. Students must see a practitioner before they are able to receive free testing.

Nearly every Thursday, students can go to Corbett Center and receive free HIV testing sponsored by the Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education program and Family Youth Incorporated, who does the testing on W.A.V.E.'s behalf. John Rivers, the assistant coordinator of W.A.V.E., said tests are taken by cotton swabbing of the mouth, and that it take two weeks for results to come back. They also provide support services, and their method of testing is anonymous.

"On average, we got about 10 students each day," Rivers said. "The tests take about five minutes max, usually."

Rivers asks students seeking help to come by the W.A.V.E. office at the southeast corner of Monagle Hall from Monday through Friday.

Students can also see their family doctor outside of campus and anyone, regardless of age, can go to the New Mexico Department of Health for free and confidential examinations and treatment services for STDs. They are located at 1170 N. Solano Drive.