

# EXPOSED to HIV?

## the **CLOCK** is ticking!

### Take ACTION!

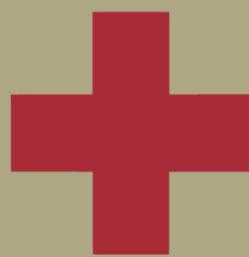
right away...

- Postexposure prophylaxis (PEP), medicine you take before you get sick, is recommended for healthcare personnel potentially exposed to HIV.
- PEP should be initiated as soon as possible, within hours of exposure.



### 1. Get evaluated

- Follow your facility's procedure for reporting your exposure.
- Consult an expert for any occupational exposure to HIV.
- Don't delay the start of HIV PEP while waiting for an expert consultation.



### 2. Complete a full course of PEP

- Using 3 or more PEP drugs at one time.
- Finish the entire 4-week course.
- The newer recommended HIV PEP drugs are safer and have fewer side effects, making it easier to complete the entire PEP course.
- Return for evaluation to seek another treatment option if you cannot tolerate PEP.

**4-week course**



### 3. Follow-up

- Follow-up appointments should begin within 72 hours of an HIV exposure.
- Follow-up should include counseling, baseline and follow-up post-PEP HIV testing, and monitoring for drug toxicity.



**Follow-up HIV testing can be completed earlier than 6 months.**

- If a newer fourth-generation combination HIV p24 antigen-HIV antibody test is used for follow-up testing, testing may be concluded at 4 months after exposure.
- If a newer testing platform is not available, follow-up testing is typically concluded at 6 months after exposure.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention