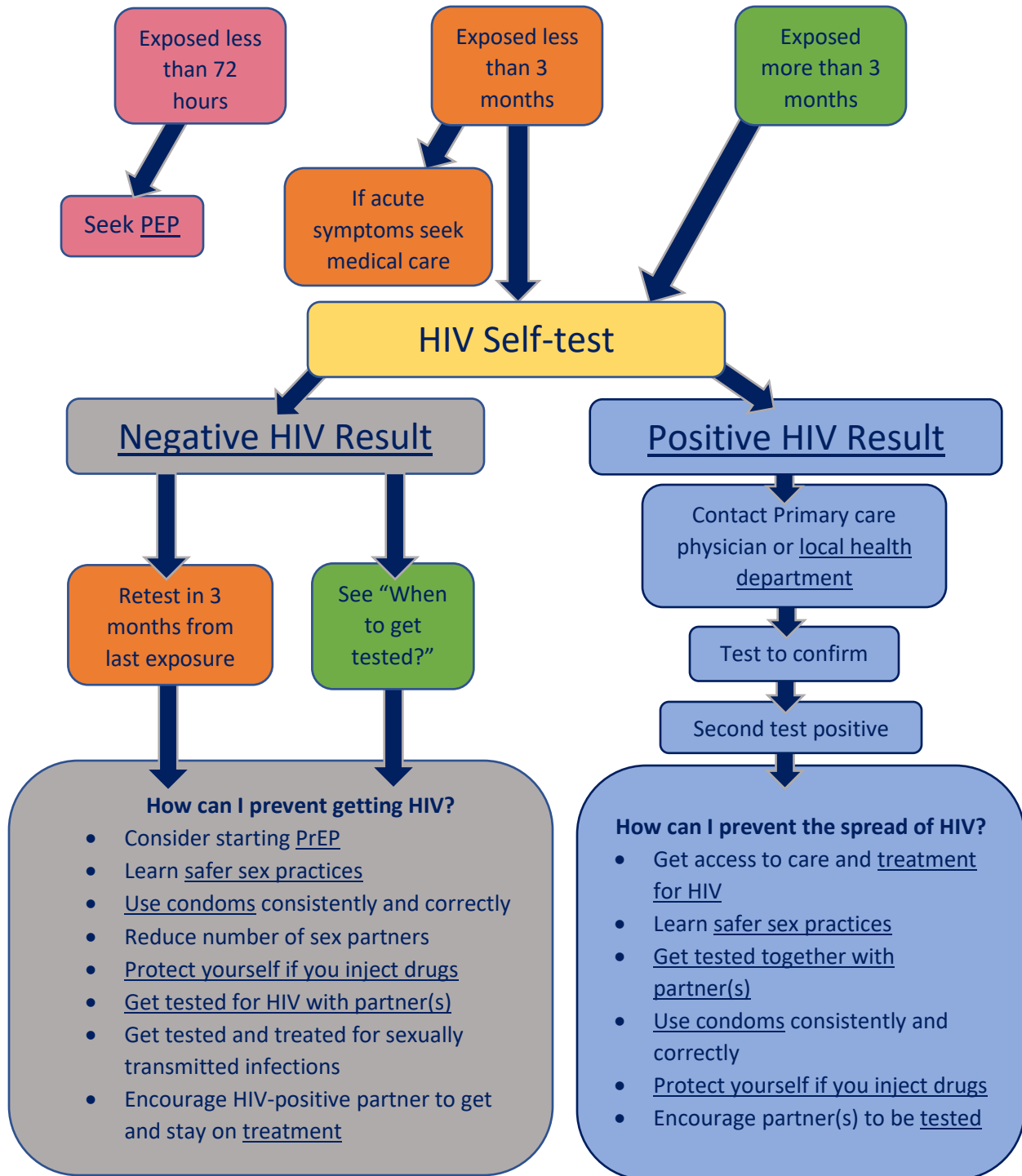


Possible Exposure to HIV



What is PEP? PEP stands for post-exposure prophylaxis and is a medication that can be taken within 72 hours (3 days) after possible HIV exposure.

What is PrEP? PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis and is medication that can prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use. When taken as prescribed, PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV.

I have more questions. Who can I call?

HIV Hotline 844-294-2448

SAMSHA Suicide Hotline: 988

Should I get tested for HIV with a blood test by my health care provider?

If you have been exposed within 72 hours, seek medical care for PEP.

If you have been exposed within 3 months and have symptoms for acute HIV infection, you should seek medical care and an HIV blood test.

What are symptoms of [acute HIV infection](#)?

HIV can cause brief and flu-like symptoms that may include the following:

- Fever, chills, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle aches, rash, mouth ulcers, night sweats

Most persons experience at least one symptom. However, some might have no symptoms.

What is the [window period](#)?

Soon after an exposure, a negative result doesn't mean that you don't have HIV. Each test has a window period, the time between HIV exposure and when a test can detect HIV in your body. This varies per person and test type. Because of the window period, persons should be tested 3 months after the possible exposure to diagnose HIV early.

When to get [tested](#)?

CDC recommends everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 be tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. People should get tested more often when they have had more than one sex partner or are having sex with someone whose sexual history they don't know. Some sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from more frequent testing (e.g., every 3-6 months). All pregnant people should get tested for HIV so they can take steps to stay healthy and protect their baby.

If you have NOT tested negative for HIV within the past 1 year and you can answer YES to any of the following questions, then you should get an HIV test as soon as possible.

- Are you a man who has had sex with another man?
- Have you had sex – anal or vaginal – with a partner who has HIV?
- Have you had more than one sex partner since your last HIV test?
- Have you injected drugs and shared needles, syringes, or other drug injection equipment (for example, cookers) with others?
- Have you exchanged sex for drugs or money?
- Have you been diagnosed with, or treated for, another sexually transmitted infection?
- Have you been diagnosed with or treated for hepatitis or tuberculosis (TB)?
- Have you had sex with someone who could answer yes to any of the above questions or someone whose sexual history you don't know?

I have more questions. Who can I call?

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[SAMSHA Suicide Hotline: 988](tel:988)