



LESSON A · AWARENESS · REFERENCE + CALCULATOR

WINDOW PERIODS TABLE

How long after an exposure each test can give a reliable result.

WINDOW PERIODS – CONFIRM EXACT TIMING WITH YOUR CLINIC

TEST	WINDOW	NOTE
HIV Ag/Ab lab	18–45 days	Most accurate early
HIV rapid antibody	23–90 days	Follow up if early
Chlamydia & gonorrhea	~1–2 weeks	Nucleic acid test
Syphilis	3–6 weeks	RPR + treponemal
Hep C antibody	8–11 weeks	RNA test if recent risk

Too early isn't never. It means retest. Testing early is still useful — test now, then retest after the full window. Use the full range; don't round it down.

M Exposure in the last 72 hours? PEP comes first — go to any emergency room now. Testing comes after.

MY WINDOW CALCULATOR

Exposure date: _____ Add the full window to find the date your result is most reliable.

TEST	ADD	RELIABLE FROM	TESTED ON	RETEST?
HIV Ag/Ab lab	45 days			
HIV rapid antibody	90 days			
Chlamydia & gonorrhea	14 days			
Syphilis	6 weeks			
Hep C antibody	11 weeks			

WORKED EXAMPLES

Exposure 10 days ago HIV lab test: too early — test now if you like, retest after day 45. Chlamydia/gonorrhea: test now.

Exposure 5 weeks ago Syphilis: in range — test now. HIV lab: in range — retest at 45 days if this one is early.

Exposure 3 months ago All ranges covered — test now.

These are planning ranges. Your clinic confirms the exact timing for the tests they use.