

FOLLOW-UP

Following a potential exposure to HIV, serologic testing is indicated to screen for HIV transmission. Seroconversion typically occurs within a few weeks of infection, but cases of delayed seroconversion have been documented. HIV antibody screening at six weeks, three months, and six months is suggested. Use of HIV viral load testing to screen for HIV transmission is not recommended except in circumstances where acute HIV infection is suspected. Though the risk of HIV transmission is low, an occupational exposure can be a psychologically traumatic event for the involved healthcare worker; counselling is often indicated and should be offered. For healthcare workers who initiate PEP, it is reasonable to perform screening laboratory tests for antiretroviral toxicity two weeks after starting PEP, though the efficacy of this strategy in preventing serious PEP-related complications has not been established.