

Window period

For information purposes, here is some information on the detection period of an STI (window period).

An STI usually takes several days to develop in the body and become detectable.

STI	Minimal period	Window period
Chlamydia	Not defined	14 days
Gonorrhea	Not defined	14 days
Syphilis	10 days	12 weeks
Hepatitis B	7 days	12 weeks
Hepatitis C	6 weeks	12 weeks
HIV	14 days	12 weeks

Window period: A period of time following an exposure during which infection may be present but undetectable by testing. After this period, testing can detect infection in the majority of infected individuals.

Minimal period: The period of time after an exposure that an infection is likely to be detected. If you are tested before the minimum period has passed, the likelihood of a positive test result if you have become infected is very low.

According to the guidelines of the Guide québécois de dépistage des ITSS, a follow-up screening test is recommended at the end of this window period.