FIGURE 1: Sequence of Events Following HIV Exposure, With and Without Administration of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

**Percutaneous or mucosal exposure to HIV**

- Virus replicates locally in tissue macrophages or dendritic cells of exposed individual.

- **PEP is administered within 72 hours;** has rapid onset and multiple sites of antiviral activity.
  - Viral replication is blocked; infection is contained.
  - HIV infection is prevented.

- **PEP is not administered within 72 hours of exposure.**
  - Viral replication is not blocked.
  - Within 48 to 72 hours of exposure, viral replication occurs in host regional lymph nodes.
  - Viremia follows within 72 to 120 hours of exposure.
  - HIV infection is established in the exposed individual.

Available at: hivguidelines.org/pep-for-hiv-prevention/pep/#tab_2