

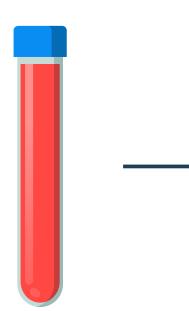
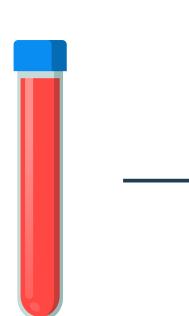
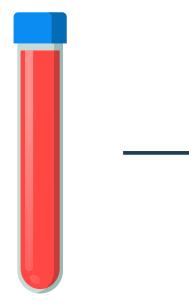
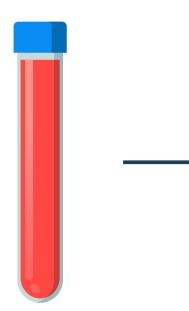
¿What is *pool testing*?

Pool testing is a diagnostic strategy to detect disease infection or drug consumption that is based on testing a combined sample of several individuals.

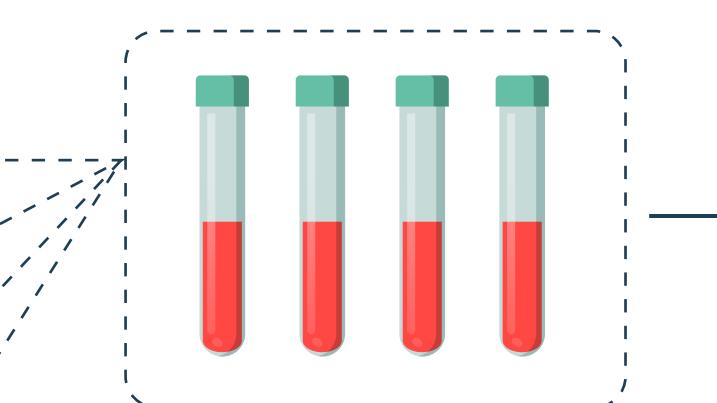
1 Samples are taken of several individuals



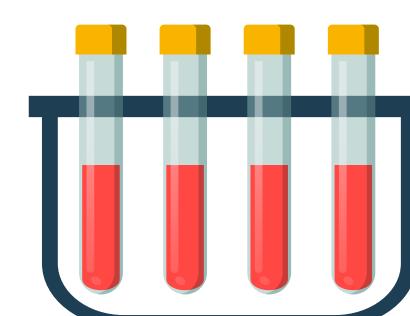
2 Each sample is divided into two



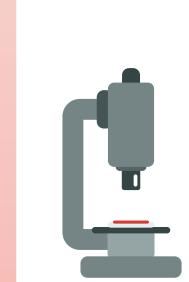
3 They combine one of the samples from each individual



The others are saved, identifying each individual



4 The combined sample is tested

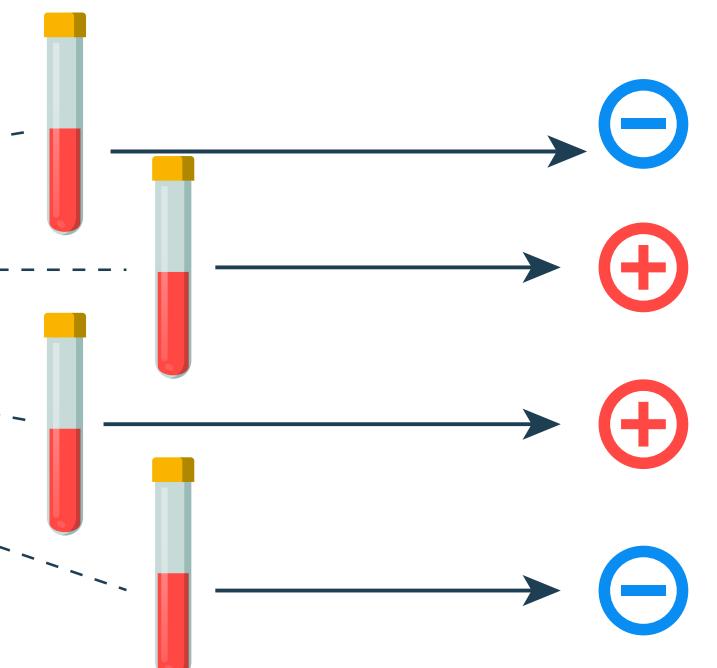


If the result is negative:



If the result is positive: at least one is infected

5 Each individual saved sample is tested



Why use pool testing?

The **pool testing** strategy is useful when:

- A large population of possible infected must be tested and the number of infected is low.
- When testing is very expensive.

In some sports competitions, the strategy of **pool testing** is used for detecting doping, that is, establishing the consumption of prohibited substances that favor the performance. In these cases, it is usual that the samples are urine.



This technique was widely used during the COVID-19 pandemic, given that massive testing had to be done and there was a shortage of reactives. Pool testing allowed us to examine more people with fewer test kits in a shorter time period.

