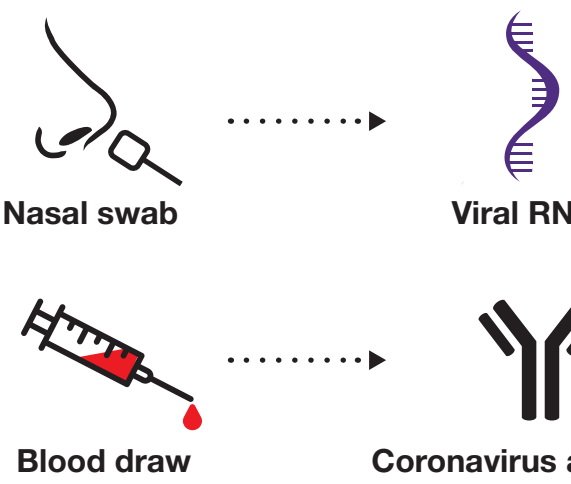
WHAT IS AN ASSAY ANYWAY?

An **ASSAY** is an investigative laboratory procedure used to measure the presence, amount, or activity of a “target”.

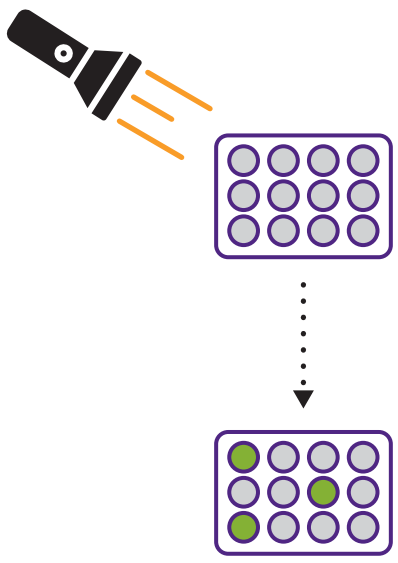
The target could be a drug, an enzyme, a cell or a foreign material like a virus or bacteria.

An **ANTIBODY** is a large, Y-shaped protein produced mainly by blood plasma cells that is used by the immune system to attack alien substances such as bacteria and viruses.

1 How and What Will You Measure?



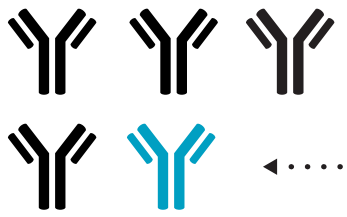
2 How Will You Detect It?



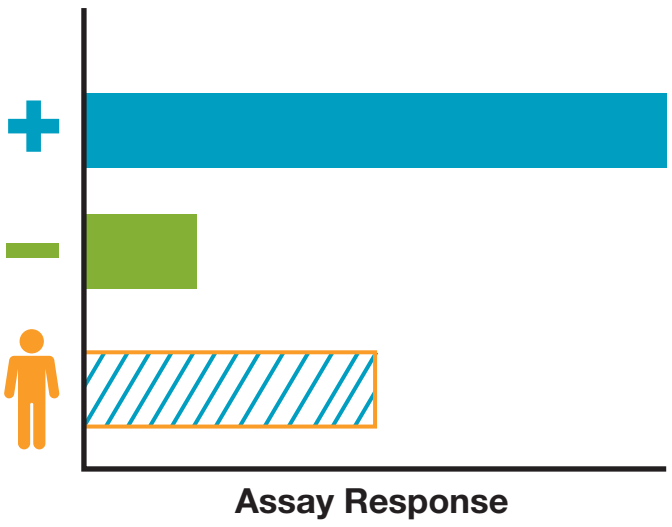
Scientists use machines called detectors that apply energy to samples to measure the changes in the light produced.

A quantitative assay returns data about the amount of the target detected, which is proportional to the change in light.

There are normally many, many antibodies in your blood. The test has to be selective and specific to identify the target antibody.



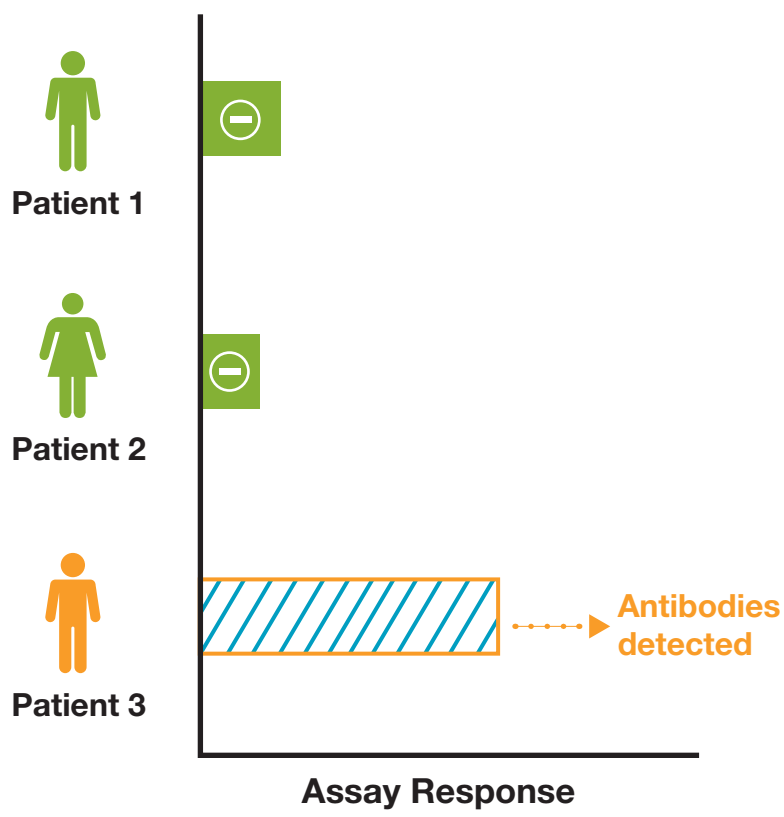
3 How Do You Interpret It?



Controls show what a **positive** or **negative** result looks like.

A patient's actual assay data will be somewhere in this range.

4 What Does It Mean?



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