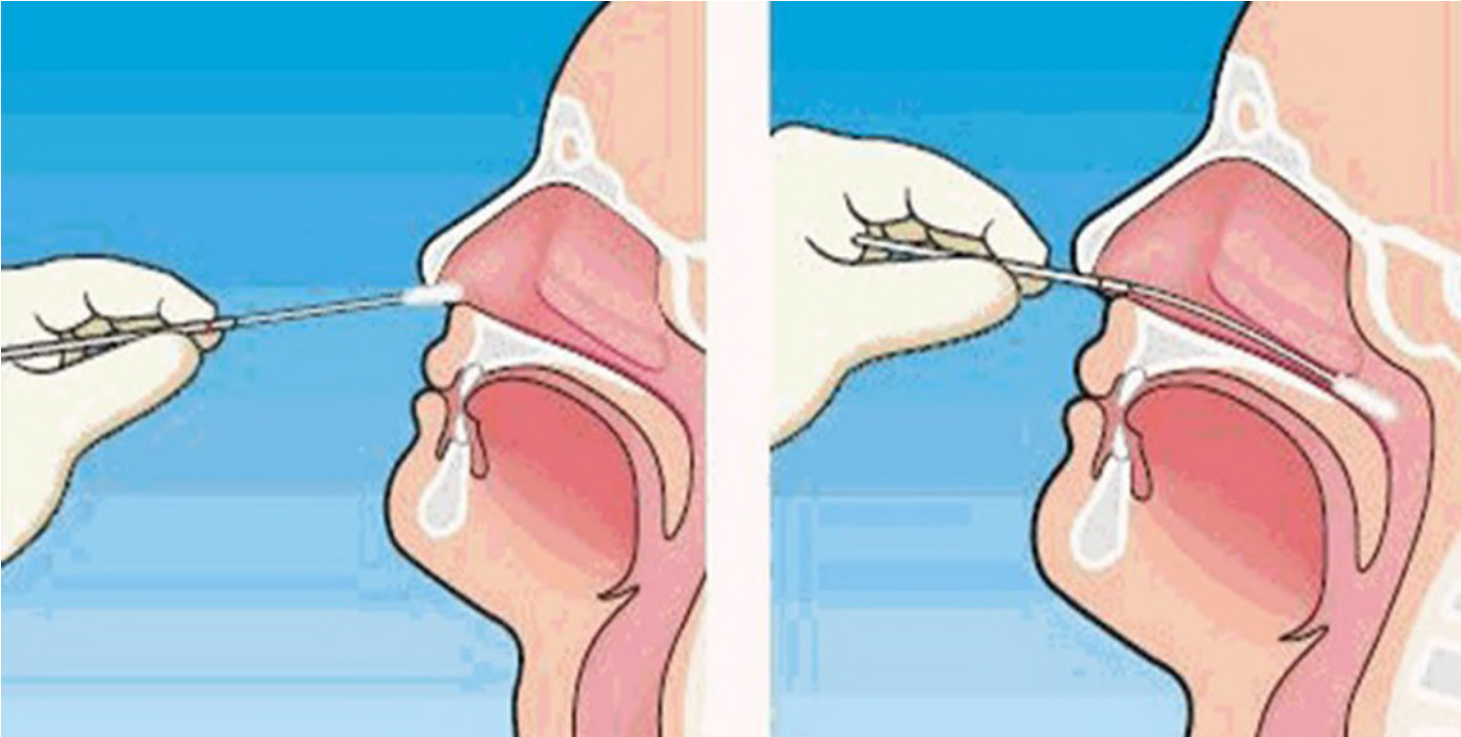


Taking the swab from the nasopharynx



Essential Steps

- Wear full protective gear
- Verify patient name and match it to the tube
- Inform the patient that he may gag or feel the urge to sneeze during the swabbing but that the procedure takes less than 1 minute. The swabbing will take 10 to 15 seconds maximum, whereas the entire procedure will take approximately 1 minute.
- Have the patient sit erect at the edge of the bed or on a chair. Stand on the side of the patient, to avoid getting coughed upon.
- Open the package without contaminating the swab.
- Ask the patient to tilt his head back.
- Gently pass the swab into the patent nostril about 3" to 4" (8–10 cm) into the nasopharynx. Keep the swab near the septum and floor of the nose. Rotate the swab quickly and remove it.
- Repeat procedure through the other nostril
- Alternatively, depress the patient's tongue with a tongue blade, pass the bent swab up behind the uvula, then rotate the swab and withdraw it.
- Remove the cap from the culture tube. Insert the swab, and break off the contaminated end. Then close the tube tightly.
- Immediately place the specimen in the rack or place in plastic bag to hand to assistant.
- Remove and discard your gloves, and wash your hands.