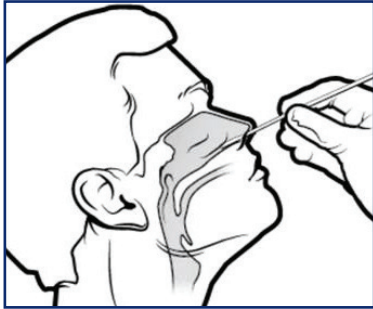
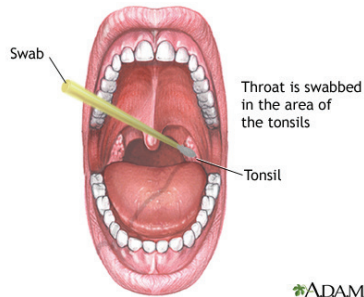


1. Ensure that all infection prevention & control steps are followed including:
 - a. Hand hygiene before and after the procedure and before and after the patient encounter
 - b. Follow isolation status of patient. Minimum PPE includes mask, eye protection, gown and gloves.
2. *Preferred* midturbinate and oropharyngeal swabs: Insert a swab into the nostril parallel to the palate.



- While gently rotating the swab, insert midturbinate swab into the nostril to the stopper (until resistance is met at turbinates).
- Leave swab in place for 2-3 seconds then rotate completely around for 10-15 seconds. Note: Although not painful, patients generally feel very uncomfortable with this procedure. Be prepared for them to pull their head and/or body away. This procedure may also generate a cough so prepare to move to the side if possible, especially after completing the process.
- Remove swab and repeat the same process in the other nostril with the same swab.

3. Oropharyngeal (throat) swab (if unable to perform nasopharyngeal swab): Swab the posterior pharynx, avoiding the tongue.



Touching other surfaces may contaminate the swab.

4. After the swab procedure is completed, immediately place into the sterile vial containing the transport media. The shaft of the swab is snapped off at the red line. This line usually aligns with the length of the swab that can fit into the tube .
5. Ensure cap is tightly closed and place tube in a biohazard bag.
6. Tube must be labeled with a label printed from the Cerner order. A paper requisition must also be printed from Cerner. Place second label at top of requisition and place requisition in outer pocket of biohazard bag.