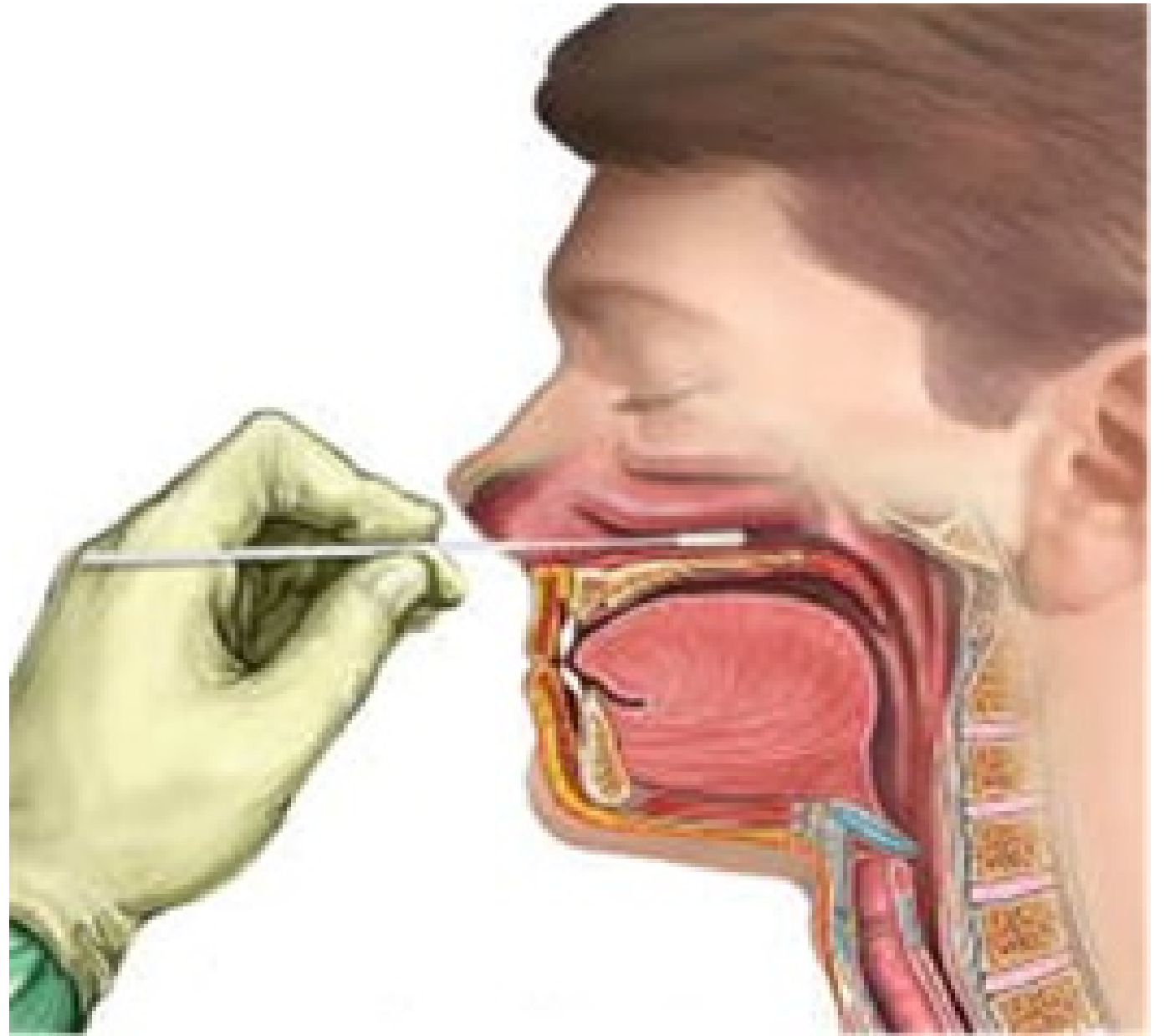


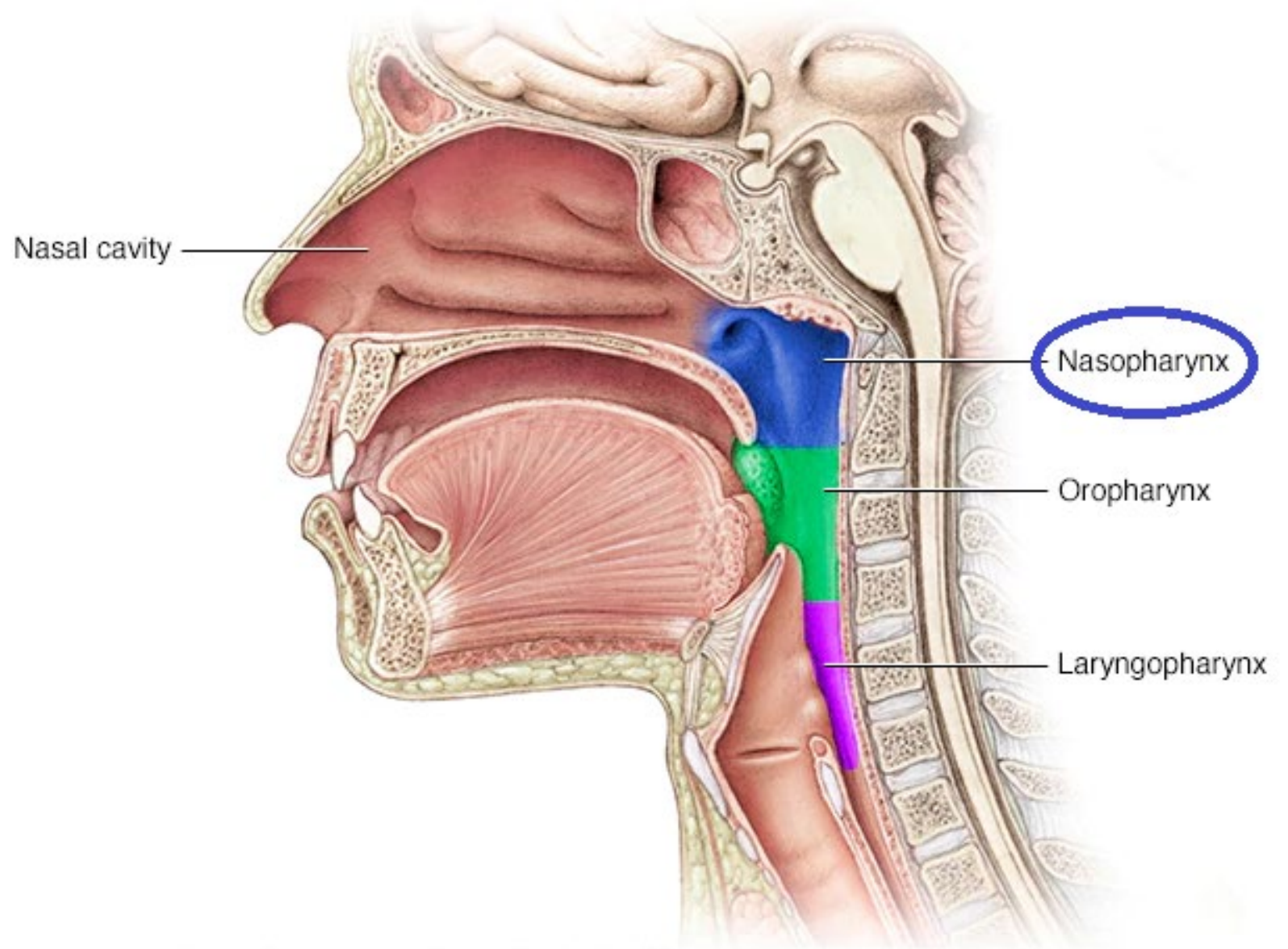
Nasopharyngeal Swab Procedure

Specimen Collection for Suspected COVID-19 Patient

Nasopharyngeal Swab Procedure



Nasopharynx Anatomy



Applicable Patients

- Patients who have received a referral or order from a clinician, for specimen collection while under quarantine or isolation
- Ordering or referral source may be:
 - Primary care
 - Local health department
 - Medical control physician

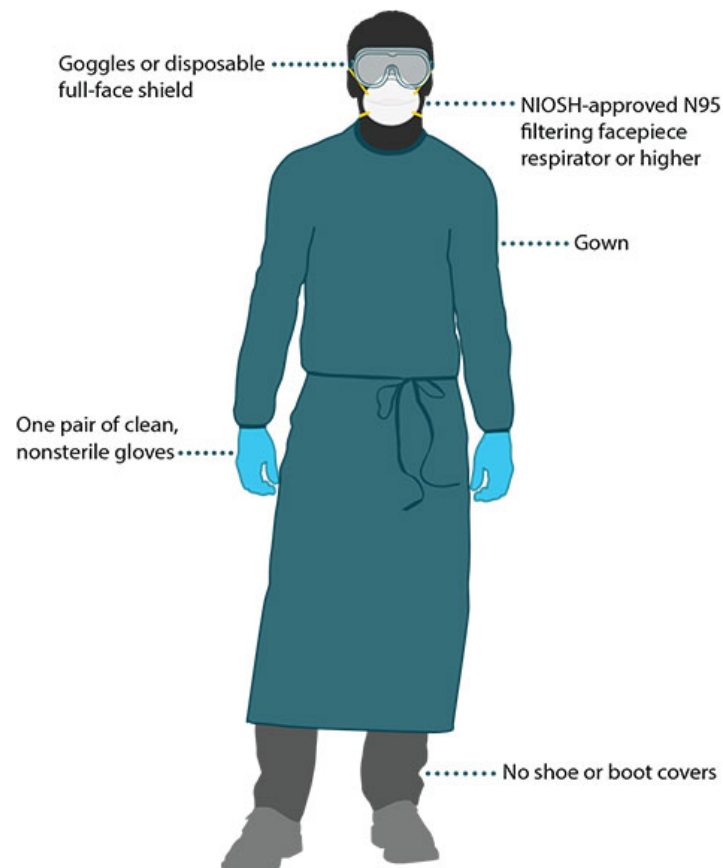
NP Swab Procedure - Overview

- Don appropriate PPE
- Place patient in seated position
- Tilt patient's head back slightly to visualize nasal passages
- Gently insert swab along septum floor
 - **Stop when resistance is met**
 - **Do not force any further**
- Rotate swab several times – keep in nasal passage 10 seconds
- Gently remove swab
- Place immediately into collection tube according to directions
 - Place swab into tube prior to breaking stick at scored break point
 - Tighten cap securely

PPE

Don Appropriate PPE – Before Performing The NP Swab

- Mask
- Gown
- Gloves
- Eye Protection

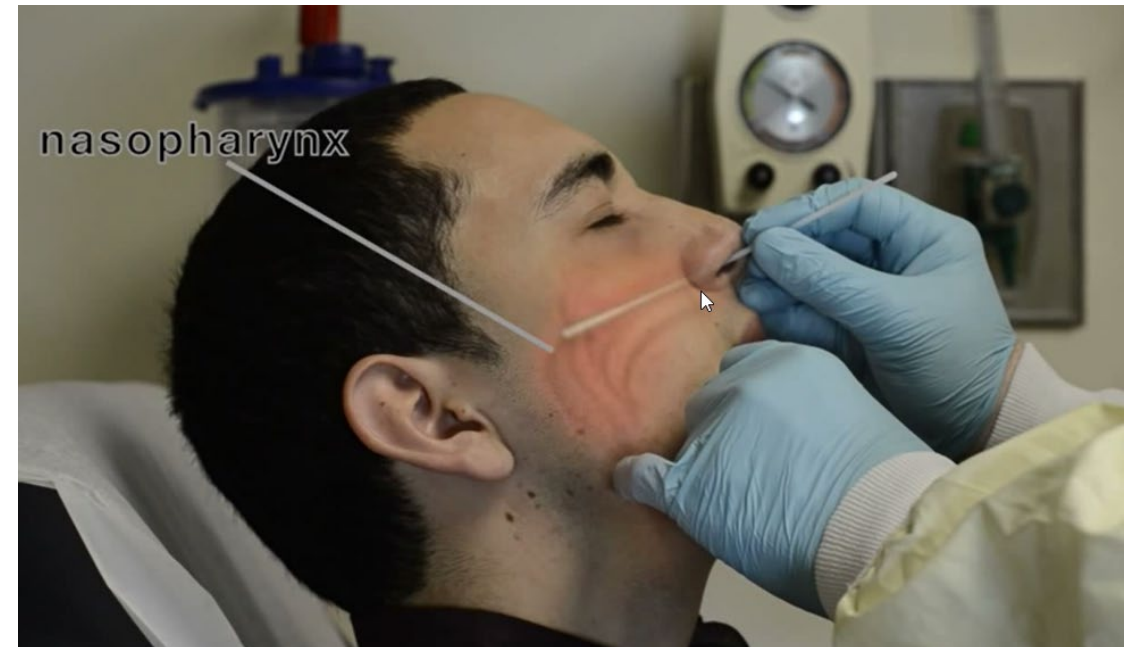


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For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Key Points

- This is an uncomfortable procedure
 - Be gentle/patient
- Tilt head back slightly
 - Visualize the nasal passageway
- Gently insert the swab
 - **Stop when resistance is met**
- Swab along floor of septum
 - ½ way between nostril opening and ear



Nasopharyngeal Swab Tutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXohAo1d6tk>

This video was created by The Joint Commission and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention

Packaging and Shipping Specimens

- Follow packaging instructions from the **collection materials provided**
- Packaging:
 - Label each tube – patient name, patient DOB, source (**NP**)
 - Place **NP swab** in collection tube according to directions
 - Place tube (tightened cap) in plastic bag with absorbent material
 - Place sample in 95kPa bag
 - Place bagged sample on ice pack
- Follow instructions from **referral source** or **ordering physician** for shipping and delivery
- Further questions - contact your Local Health Department