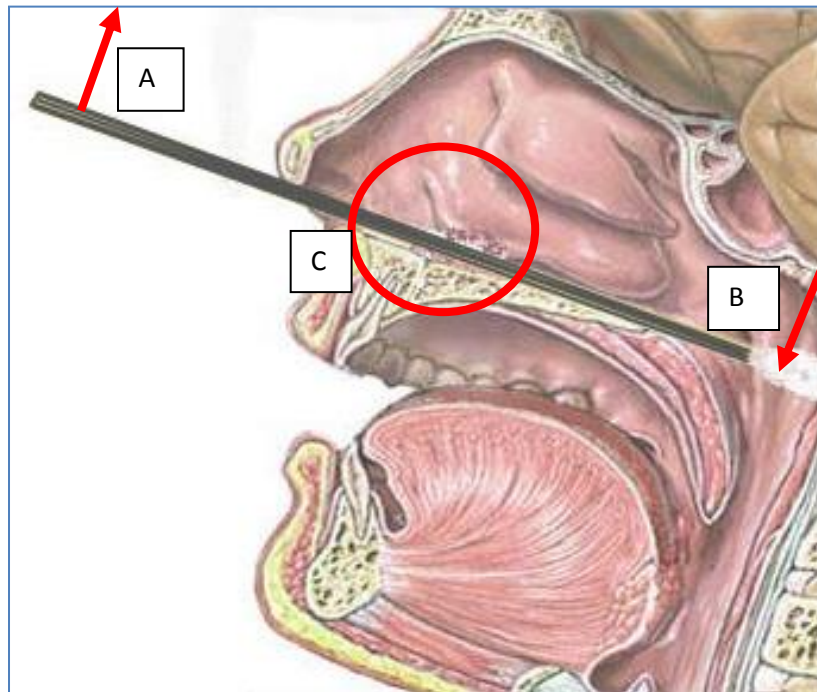


# Proper Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab Collection Quick Reference Guide



- Use nylon flocked tipped, flexible plastic shaft swab
- Don goggles, gloves, mask or other PPE as necessary
- Push the handle end of the swab (A) toward the ceiling such that swab end (B) stays on the floor of the sinus cavity
- Watch that the swab tip doesn't stop at the lower sinus ridge (C).
  - **NOTE:** This happens frequently and folks believe they are at the nasopharynx.
    - As you know, the nasopharynx is located at the very back of the sinus cavity (near the front of the ear) as indicated by the swab tip placement in the photo above.
- Rotate swab gently ½ turn and back to collect epithelial cells and gently remove
- Place swabs directly into viral transport media (VTM)
- Label all specimens as **“Nasopharyngeal” or “NP”**
  - Do NOT label as *“Nasal”*, these are unacceptable for testing
- Store refrigerated until ready to transport to ISDH laboratories