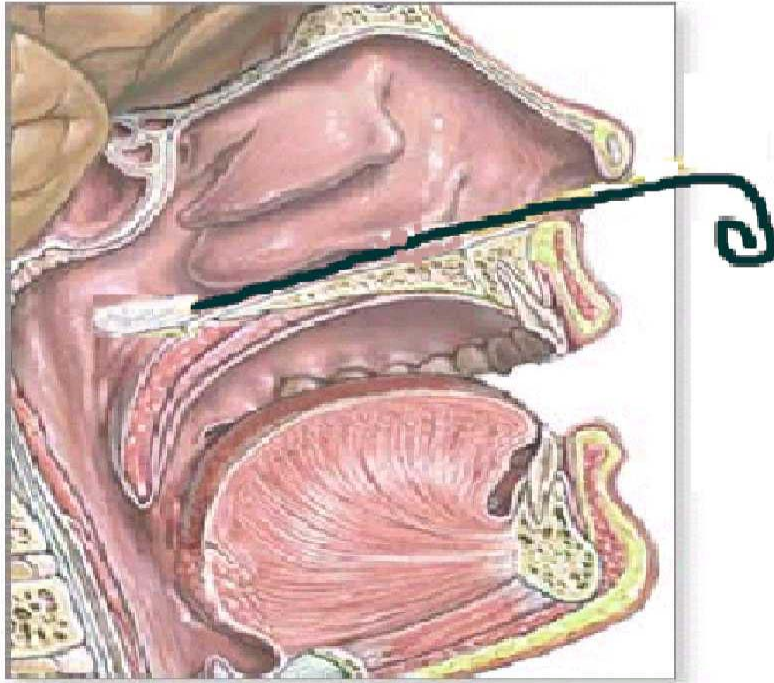


## Nasopharyngeal Swab Technique

A sterile swab is passed gently through the nostril and into the nasopharynx, and held in place or gently rotated for at least 10 seconds



### **Specimen Collection and Submission**

- Submit a nasopharyngeal swab (using a Dacron swab) or a nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen in a sterile, dry tube for *B. pertussis* PCR testing. If possible, submit a second nasopharyngeal swab (preferably, a calcium alginate swab in charcoal-based medium, e.g., Regan-Lowe medium) or aspirate specimen for culture. Both specimens should be kept at refrigerator temperature during transit.
- When collecting the swab specimen, insert a flexible wire swab through the nostril deeply into the nasopharynx. Rotate the swab or hold in place for 10 seconds to ensure an adequate specimen and reduce the possibility of false negative results. Place the swab into the specimen container, cutting the shaft of the swab so that the cap of the specimen container can be securely tightened.