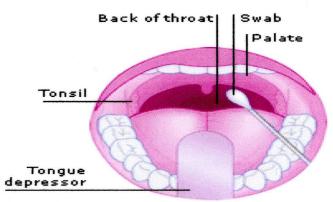
HOW TO TAKE A THROAT SWAB

- 1. Ensure hands have been cleansed prior to undertaking the procedure.
- 2. Prepare all the necessary equipment, ie specimen container, swab, sample form.
- 3. Explain the procedure to the patient.
- 4. Ask the patient to sit in such a position that the patient is facing a strong light source.
- 5. Depress the tongue with a disposable spatula.
- Use either a plain sterile white swab or a wire sterile swab with white tip.
- Insert sterile swab into the mouth and wipe along the back of the throat for approx.



- View of throat
- 8. Place the swab with the cotton tip end into either a **viral transport medium** container (contains fluid) or a **universal container** (does not contain any fluid).
- 9. Do not insert the swab into a charcoal sample container.
- 10. Break off the shaft of the plain sterile white swab. If using a wire sterile swab, use scissors to cut the shaft of the swab.
- 11. Ensure the lid can be secured properly to prevent any leakage.
- 12. Cleanse hands again.

