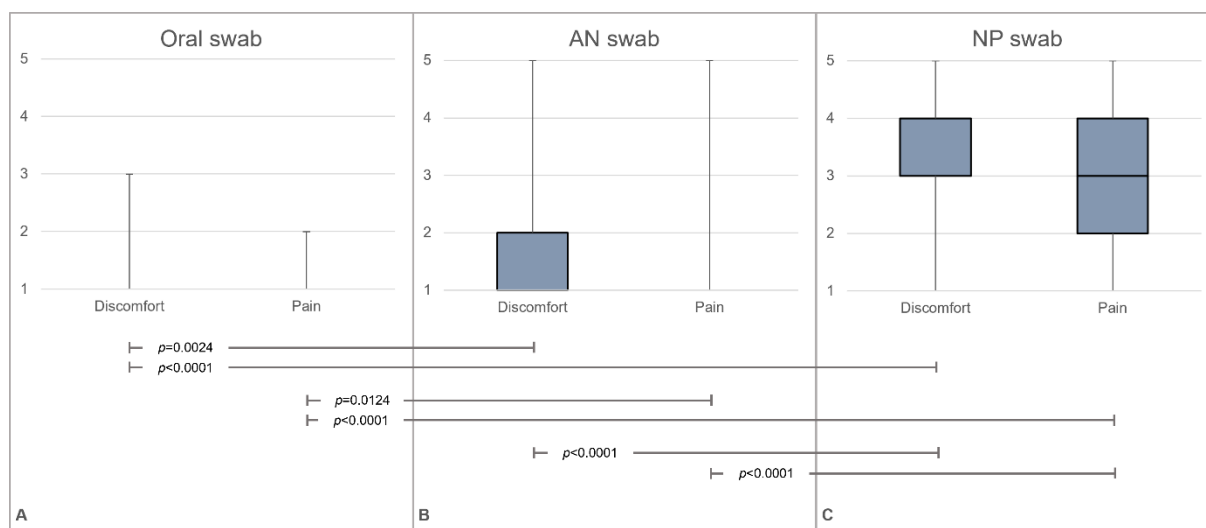


## Supplementary Appendix



**Figure S1: Discomfort and pain ratings in hospitalized participants.**

AN, anterior nasal; NP, nasopharyngeal.

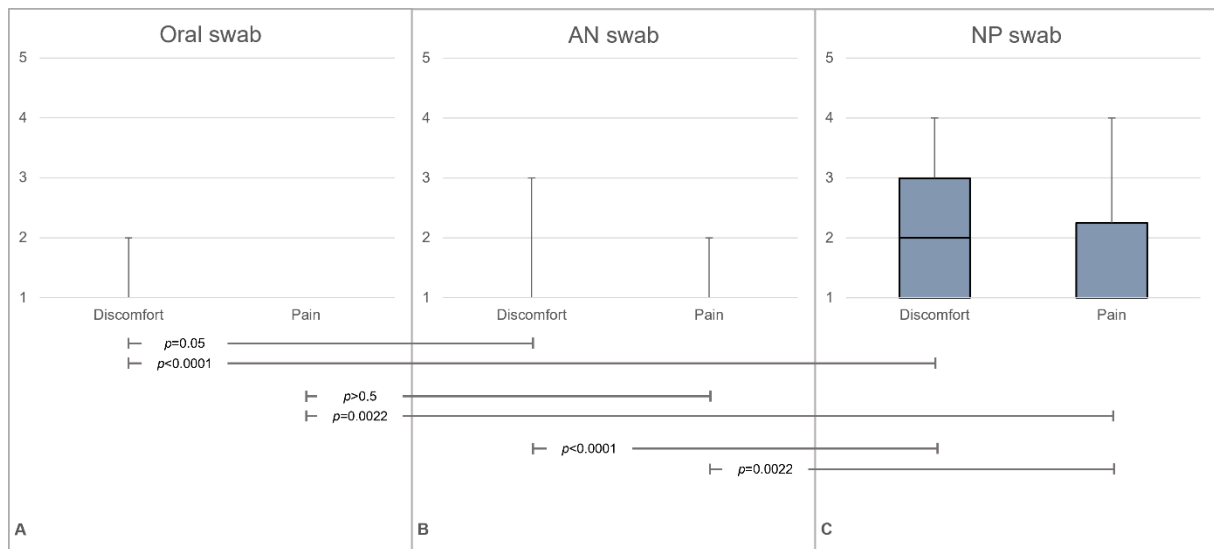
A questionnaire assessed severity from 1 to 5, whereas 1=least discomfort or pain and 5=most discomfort or pain. Results are displayed as minimum/1<sup>st</sup> quartile/median/3<sup>rd</sup> quartile/maximum.

(A) self-collected oral swab – discomfort and pain (1/1/1/1/3) and (1/1/1/1/2),

(B) selfcollected anterior nasal swab – discomfort and pain (1/1/1/2/5) and (1/1/1/1/5),

(C) professionally collected nasopharyngeal swab – discomfort and pain (1/3//4/4/5) and (1/2/3/4/5).

p-values were calculated using the Wilcoxon signed rank test.



**Figure S2: Discomfort and pain ratings in healthy volunteers.**

AN, anterior nasal; NP, nasopharyngeal.

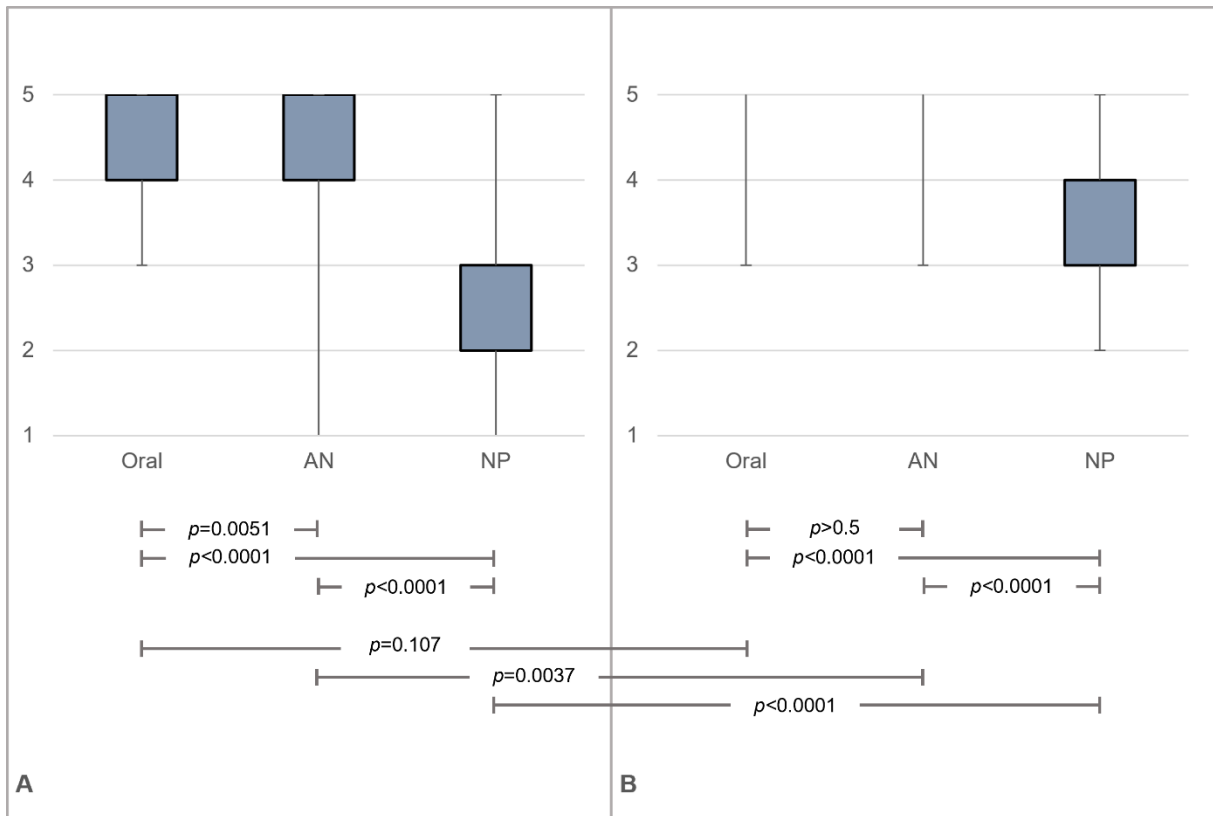
A questionnaire assessed severity from 1 to 5, whereas 1=least discomfort or pain and 5=most discomfort or pain. Results are displayed as minimum/1<sup>st</sup> quartile/median/3<sup>rd</sup> quartile/maximum.

(A) self-collected oral swab – discomfort and pain (1/1/1/2) and (1/1/1/1),

(B) self-collected anterior nasal swab – discomfort and pain (1/1/1/3) and (1/1/1/2),

(C) professionally collected nasopharyngeal swab – discomfort and pain (1/1/2/3/4) and (1/1/2.25/4).

p-values were calculated using the Wilcoxon signed rank test.



**Figure S3: Willingness to frequently perform different swabbing methods.**

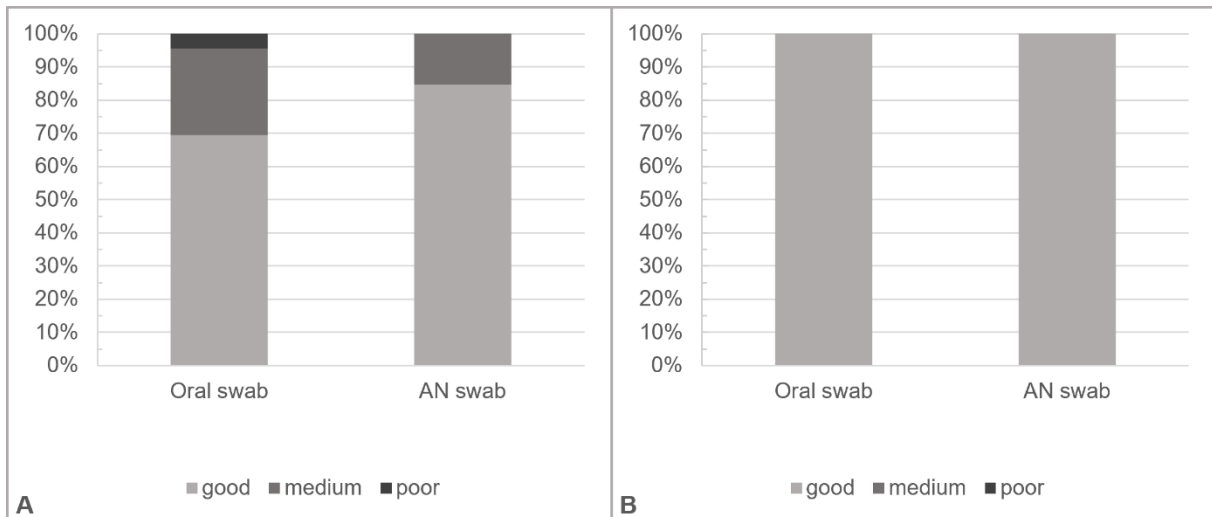
AN, anterior nasal; NP, nasopharyngeal; A questionnaire assessed willingness to frequently perform self-collected oral and anterior nasal and professionally collected nasopharyngeal swabs in hospitalized participants (A) and healthy volunteers (B), whereas 1=unwillingly to frequently perform the swab and 5=strong willingness to frequently perform the swab.

Results are displayed as minimum/1<sup>st</sup> quartile/median/3<sup>rd</sup> quartile/maximum.

(A) oral (3/4/5/5/5), anterior nasal (1/4/5/5/5), nasopharyngeal (1/2/2/3/5).

(B) oral (3/5/5/5/5), anterior nasal (3/5/5/5/5), nasopharyngeal (2/3/4/5/5).

p-values were calculated using the Wilcoxon signed rank test.



**Figure S4: Swab quality.**

AN, anterior nasal.

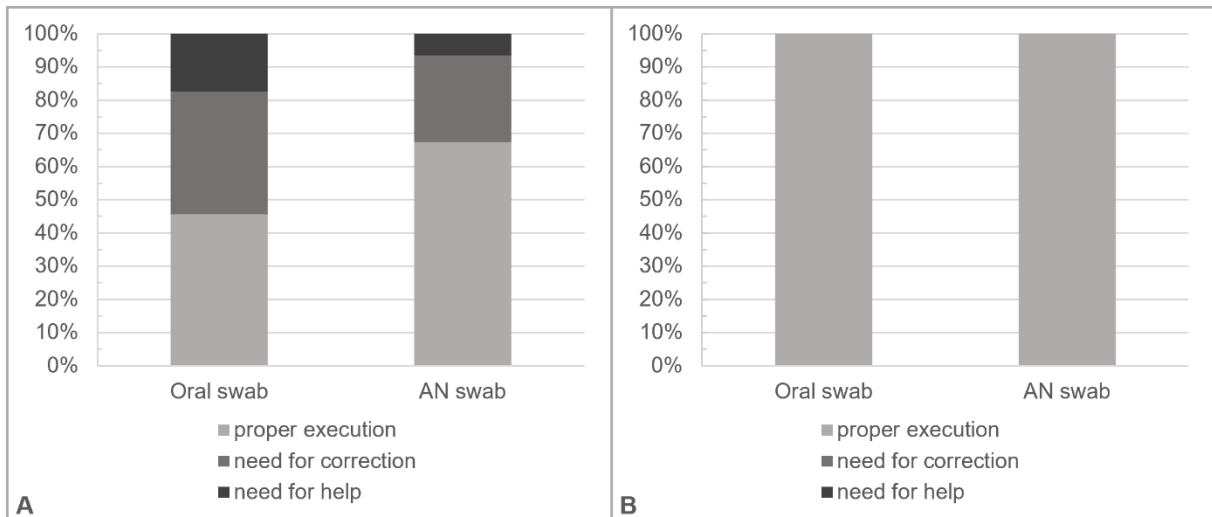
Swab quality was assessed by the supervising investigator during sample collection and classified as good, medium or poor.

(A) self-collected oral and anterior nasal swabs in hospitalized participants

(69.57%/26.09%/4.35%) and (84.78%/15.22%/0%),

(B) self-collected oral and anterior nasal swabs in healthy volunteers (100%/0%/0%) and

(100%/0%/0%).



**Figure S5: Execution of swabbing.**

AN, anterior nasal.

Oral and anterior nasal swab execution and requirement of support (proper execution/need for correction/need for help) were documented by the supervising investigator during sample collection.

(A) self-collected oral and anterior nasal swabs in hospitalized participants

(45.65%/36.96%/17.39%) and (67.39%/26.09%/6.52%),

(B) self-collected oral and anterior nasal swabs in healthy volunteers (100%/0%/0%) and

(100%/0%/0%)