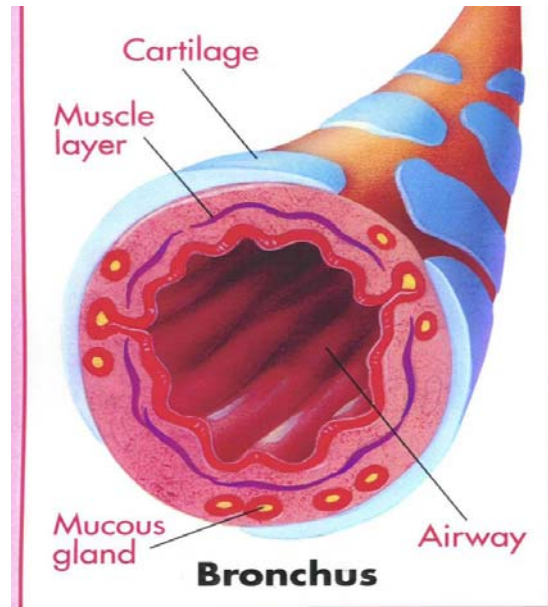
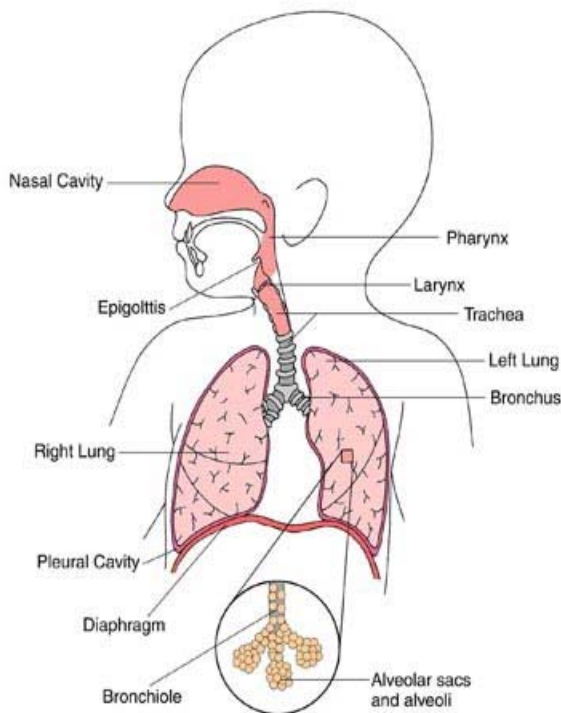


Asthma

What happens in the lungs?

Normally, air travels comfortably through the open airways. Oxygen from the air enters the bloodstream through tiny air sacs at the end of the airways, and other invisible gases are breathed out. A thin layer of mucus lines the airways to trap and rid the lungs of unwanted particles.



When asthma occurs, there are major changes in the airways. “Rubber band-like” muscles surrounding the airways contract and squeeze. This is called “broncho-constriction.” Within six to eight hours after exposure to a “trigger,” the airway linings become inflamed. Airway linings swell and excess mucus is produced, with the total effect of making breathing difficult, trapping air in the lungs, and in extreme cases, causing death or brain damage due to lack of oxygen.

