

Lab Procedures:

1. Work in teams of 3 or 4. Give your team a name. As a team, choose at least 4 – 6 areas to examine. You should try for as many different areas as possible, but make sure one of those areas is your hands and/or under your fingernails.
2. Hypothesize about which areas will have the most bacteria. Which will have the least bacteria? Why? How fast will the bacteria grow? Why? (***Begin the completion of your Lab Report Outline.***)
3. Design your experiment to test your hypothesis. ***Add this information to your Lab Report Outline.***
4. Share your experiment outline with the teacher before proceeding.
5. Get your supplies from the teacher.
 - a. 3 Petri dishes
 - b. Sterile cotton swabs
 - c. Masking tape
 - d. Permanent marker
 - e. Safety gloves
 - f. Sterile water
6. Prepare your Petri dishes
 - a. Label the dishes on the bottom (agar side).
 - b. Divide the control dish into thirds. Label the control plate: agar, wet swab, and dry swab. Then swab the control plate.
 - c. Divide and label the other two dishes with the areas you want to test.
 - d. Label the dishes with the date and team name. Be sure to label along the side, so you can see the bacterial growth in the center.
7. Gather your samples and inoculate your dishes.
 - a. Tape Petri dishes closed.
 - b. Let the dishes sit at room temperature.
 - c. Set up time parameters – How many days do you think it will take for the bacteria to grow?