

Microbiology Lab Setup

Name: _____ Date: _____

Purpose:

To practice aseptic techniques and culture microbes.

Materials:

- 1 sterile agar plate
- Permanent marker
- Parafilm
- Gloves
- Sterile swab (optional)

Step-by-Step Procedure:

Part 1: Sample selection

1. Choose an item around you to sample. For example – phones, water bottles, the table, chair, or your own fingers (washed or unwashed).
2. If you are sampling anything other than your fingers, obtain a sterile swab, but leave it in the package.

Part 2: Plate Setup

3. Put on a pair of gloves.
4. Unwrap your sterilized agar plate. Do not remove the lid.
5. **Carefully**, turn the plate **upside down** (so you are writing on the side with the agar, not the lid).
6. Write the date and your name or initials on the bottom of the plate.
7. Turn the plate over so it is sitting on the bottom – where you just wrote. Again, be sure the lid remains on.

Part 3: Sampling

5. If you are sampling an item and not your own fingers, unwrap your sterile swab, and spend at least 10 seconds swabbing the item. **Do not let the swab touch anything else.**

6. Next, remove the lid from the sterile agar plate – **do not set the lid down.**

If sampling your fingers, **gently** press your thumb or one finger (the part with the finger print) on top of the agar. Do not slide your finger. You are trying to leave a light finger print on the agar, not puncture or break the agar. Start with light pressure.

If you have a sterile swab, **gently** roll it across the surface of the agar. Be sure not to puncture or break the surface of the agar.

7. Replace the lid over the agar plate. Peel the Parafilm off the paper back and wrap around the entire edge of the plate to completely seal it.
8. Place the plate **bottom side up** (so you can see your writing) in the box.
9. Throw away your swab, and remove your gloves and throw them away.