

13. Everyday Bacteria

Subject: Microbiology

Objective: To show that there are bacteria everywhere and we ought to wash our hands.

Logistics: Classroom demonstration.

Materials:

*2 or 4 Petri dishes with nutrient agar
microscope(s)*

Procedure:

Step 1: Select a student and obtain a smear from her hand for a Petri dish. Control Petri dish is covered.

Step 2: Send student with another child to washroom to wash hands thoroughly. Student is not to touch anything (door handles or other objects) after washing hands and returning to classroom.

Step 3: Obtain smear of washed hands for second Petri dish.

Step 4: Petri dishes are incubated for a week in teacher's desk or some other warm space.

Step 5: After one week examine Petri dishes under a microscope. Dish with unwashed hand smear will have many bacteria colonies, washed hands will have less and control dish will have least.

Vocabulary: *Petri dish, bacteria, microscope, microorganism*

What they Learn: Bacteria or microorganisms are all around us. Washing hands is a way of preventing disease.