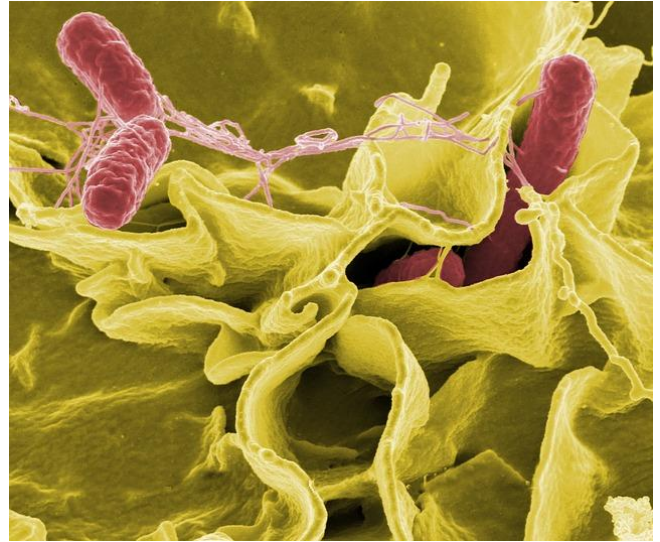


Where Do Bacteria Live?

There are good and bad bacteria on just about everything in the world. Bacteria are even inside our bodies. Although they are very tiny, in this experiment you will grow enough to see with your eyes.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *5 or more petri dishes
- *Small glass dish (Pyrex)
- *Zip-top plastic bags
- *Agar powder
- *Water
- *Cotton swabs
- *Labeling tape
- *Marker
- *Nitrile disposable gloves



EXPERIMENT PROCESS:

- *Before you start, put on a pair of gloves
- *You will want to wash your hands during and after the experiment
- *You will use cotton swabs for the bacteria collection samples. All you have to do is wipe the swab on a surface. Some good locations to find a lot of bacteria are door handles, bus or train seats, desks, and faucet handles. Use only one cotton swab per location.
- *Store each cotton swab in its own labeled zip-top bag.
- *Label your petri dishes with the locations where you took each sample.
- *Mix the agar powder with water, following the directions from the manufacturer.
- *Pour a small amount of the liquid agar in to the small glass dish.
- *Take a brand new, clean, cotton swab and wipe a clean petri dish.
- *Dip the swab into the dish of agar. Then wipe again on the petri dish and label it "control."
- *Clean out the small dish. You do not want to contaminate the agar between samples.
- *Take each of your collected samples, dip it in agar, and swab the appropriately labeled petri dish.
- *Keep the dishes at room temperature and record your observations over few days.
- *Examine the petri dishes to find out which locations seem to have the most bacteria..