

## **Lab #1: Bacteria Culture**

### **Purpose:**

To culture bacteria and learn where it can be found.

### **Procedure:**

1. Obtain an agar plate. Keep the lid on the dish and turn it over so the agar side is up. Using a marker, divide the dish into 4 equal parts (quadrants) and label the quadrants 1, 2, 3, and 4. Turn the plate over again and write your names and block on the lid.
2. Using a cotton swab, wipe it on an object (sample). Lift the lid of your plate just enough so you can lightly rub the swab on the agar of quadrant 1. Record on a piece of paper where you obtained the sample (ex: class doorknob, class tabletop, bathroom counter, phone receiver / handset).
3. Repeat #2 for the other three quadrants using swabs from three other areas. You should have 4 different samples – use a clean swab for each sample (2 cotton swabs needed).
4. Hand in your plates inverted (lid on the bottom since we do not want water that may condense on the lid to drip onto the agar). Plates will be left for the bacteria to grow in an incubator at 38°C for at least 24 hours.
5. **WASH YOUR HANDS WELL**

### **Observations:**

Draw your agar plate showing the bacterial colony growth that has occurred in each quadrant. Label each quadrant by stating the object swabbed.

### **Conclusions:**

Discuss the purpose.