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"Ring Ring" Bacteria Calling! How Much Bacteria Do You Think Is On Your Phone? Do You Dare To Find Out?

The purpose of this project is to identify how many types of bacteria are living on cell phones. This research will help people realize how important washing their hands and cleaning their phones can be. The procedure of this project included swabbing cell phones, using chocolate agar and incubating for approximately 24 hours. The colonies taken from each cell phone was counted and placed on to a glass slide that was then gram-stained. These were then looked at under a microscope, and the types of bacteria were identified as either gram-positive or gram-negative, cocci or rod. The data was then recorded. There was 1-3 colonies grown on each cell phone. Most of the cell phones grew out either gram-positive cocci and only one of the phones grew of gram-negative rod. Other than the control there was one phone that did not grow any bacteria. The researcher's hypothesis was proven wrong. There were no more than two colonies that grew on a cell phone. The type of bacteria was probably found on most surfaces and under the right circumstances it could make someone sick. The research application could be applied to developing products that will help reduce bacteria on surfaces. With the increase in "super bugs" this type of research is very important, because antibiotics are becoming resistance to some "super bugs."