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*Do Magazines in Doctor's Offices Act as Fomites?*

The purpose of this project was to see if the magazines held for entertainment in Doctor's offices served as Fomites, inanimate objects that hold and spread bacteria to other people and objects. Considering that sick people visit clinics, and hold the magazines, I hypothesize that the magazines will carry viruses, and possibly harmful bacteria, and therefore, serve as a Fomite.

First, culturesses were picked up, completely sealed and sterile. Culturesses were then used to swab random magazines at different facilities in the area. After samples were taken, culturesses were sealed immediately. After that, all samples were taken to Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center for streaking and incubation. Petri dishes were split into separate parts according to their corresponding swabs. Then, sealed culturesses were opened, and streaked onto the Petri dishes accordingly. After swabs were streaked, the Petri dishes were incubated for 48 hours. (All tests are replicated for each swab at each test facility.)

Preliminary findings are as follows: Three magazines were tested three times resulting in 5 bacterial colonies in magazine one, 5 colonies in magazine two, and 3 colonies in magazine three. A continuation of testing is in process at different clinics.

Findings thus far lead me to conclude that magazines in Doctor's offices do serve as Fomites.