Mission #5

How good are your handwashing skills?
Are you effectively cleaning your hands using hand sanitizer or soap and water? Is soap more effective than hand sanitizer is? Check your skills through this simple experiment.

Note: This experiment is for a group of students and suggests a period of 5 days to complete.

Supplies:
- Petri dishes (2 per person)
- Handwashing station (soap, sink, running water)
- Hand sanitizer
- Plastic resalable bags
- Permanent markers
- Science experiment record sheet

Experiment Directions:
1. On the experiment record sheet, write a question you think this experiment can answer and write your hypothesis
2. Carefully write your name and write “DIRTY” on very top of one petri dish lid
3. Open your lid, take your 4 fingers and gently press them against agar, you should see your finger prints. (do not press to touch the bottom or try to break the agar)
4. ½ group will do proper handwashing with soap and water. The other ½ will use hand sanitizer to clean their hands (do not touch anything after wash/gel, keep hand up in the air)
5. Culture your clean hands on petri dish (press 4 fingers and gently against agar)
6. Cover the petri dish and write your name and write and the method you cleaned your hands (soap or sanitizer)
7. Place your clean and dirty petri dishes in plastic bag, and close the bag
8. All dishes will be collected and placed in the warmest part of the room
9. Check dishes every day for 5 days, and draw and describe what you see on the experiment record sheet