

# Gloved Fingertip & Thumb Sampling

**Documentation of competence is required initially and again every 12 months.**

Initial competency requires completing the gloved fingertip and thumb sampling no fewer than 3 separate times. Each fingertip and thumb evaluation must occur after performing separate and complete hand hygiene and garbing procedures.

## 1. Prepare

You will need two sampling devices containing general microbial growth agar.

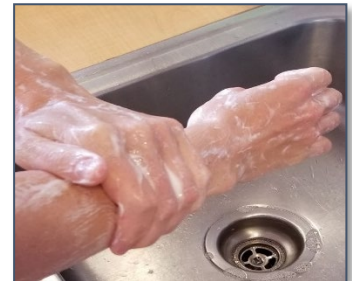
Label each sampling device with a personnel identifier, whether the sample is from the right or left hand, and the date and time of sampling.



## 2. Clean

Perform USP 797-mandated hand hygiene and garbing procedures.

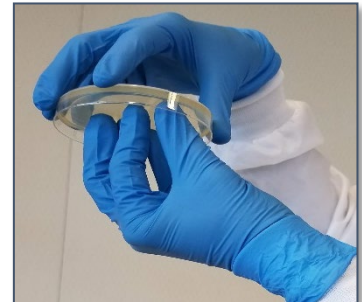
Do not apply 70% isopropyl alcohol (IPA) to gloves immediately before touching the sampling device. This could cause a false-negative result.



## 3. Collect

Hold the device upside down with one hand. With the opposite hand, remove the lid. Bring the opposite hand up and roll all fingers and thumb over the agar surface.

Use a separate sampling device for each hand to collect samples from all gloved fingers and thumbs.



## 4. Incubate

Place the sampling devices in an incubator during two separate periods:

- 30°-35°C/86-95°F for no less than 48 hours, then
- 20°-25°C/68°-77°F for at least 5 additional days



## 5. Count

Count and record the total number of colony-forming units (CFUs) on both sampling devices after final incubation.

Total action levels required for passing:

Initial sampling: 0 CFUs

Subsequent samplings: <3 CFUs

Gloved Fingertip and Thumb Sampling: (3x)	Initial Evaluation	
	Start Date/Time	After 7 days, CFU Count L
Initial incubation 30-35°C: 48 hours	07/06 / 10:05 2019 am End Date/Time 07/08 / 10:05 2019 am	0 CFU Count R 0
Second incubation 20-25°C: 5 days	Start Date/Time 07/08 / 10:10 2019 am End Date/Time 07/13 / 10:10 2019 am	0 CFU = Pass Circle: >0 CFU = Fail