PulseNet

Series 3

Finding Bacteria

Department of Health and Human Services

CDC & ATSDR

Finding Bacteria

Microbiologists play an important role in solving the mystery of disease. Microbiologists look for bacteria in blood, feces (poop), and spinal fluid samples taken from sick patients. They put samples on special dishes that are filled with food bacteria will eat. If the samples contain bacteria, then the bacteria will grow. In just a few days, the bacteria multiply so fast that they form small raised bumps on the dish called colonies.