**Spread plate:** also known as lawn plates, should result in a culture spread evenly over the surface of the growth medium. This means that they can be used to test the sensitivity of bacteria to many antimicrobial substances.

The spread plate can be used for quantitative work (colony counts) if the inoculum is a measured volume, usually 0.1 cm3, of each of a dilution series, delivered by pipette

1-Loosen the lid of the bottle containing the broth culture

2-Hold a sterile pipette in the right hand and the bottle/test tube containing the broth culture in the left

3-Remove the lid/plug of the bottle/test tube with the little finger of the right hand and flame the neck

. 4-With the pipette, remove a small amount of broth

5-Flame the neck of the bottle/test tube and replace the lid/plug

6-With the left hand, partially lift the lid of the Petri dish containing the solid nutrient medium

7-Place a few drops of culture onto the surface about 0.1 cm3

. 8-Replace the lid of the Petri dish

. 9-Place the pipette in a discard jar

10-Dip a glass spreader into alcohol, flame and allow the alcohol to burn off

. 11-Lift the lid of the Petri dish to allow entry of spreader

12-Place the spreader on the surface of the inoculated agar and, rotating the dish with the left hand move the spreader in a top-to-bottom or a side-to-side motion to spread the inoculum over the surface of the agar. Make sure the entire agar surface is covered

This operation must be carried out quickly to minimize the risk of contamination

. 13-Replace the lid of the Petri dish-

. 14-Flame spreader using alcohol-

. 15-Let the inoculum dry

. 16-Seal and incubate the plate in the inverted position