



# Wild claims or facts – The truth behind antibacterial

By Claremont High School Academy Students

# Claims

- The **Carex** Antibacterial Hand Gels: kills 99.9% of bacteria. It's a chemical formed by gels used in hospitals to ensure they quickly and effectively prevent the spread of any germs (even superbugs).



**Cuticura:** KILLS 99.99% OF BACTERIA. Clinically proven to tackle even the toughest bacteria. Being alcohol free too, the invisible barrier protects against re-infection between washes.

# What did our experiment involve?

Our aim was to find out whether or not antibacterial hand washes claims were true. In order to do this we tested different varieties of hand washes against the germs given off by unclean hands. Below are the products we decided to test out:



# What did our experiment involve?



# Our Results



Dirty hands

Water





Bar of Soap

Imperial Leather Soap





School Antibacterial

Cuticura  
Hand gel



Carex Aloe Vera  
Hand gel

# Best & Worst

Out of all the anti-bacterial products we tested there was clearly one that stood out amongst the rest... IMPERIAL LEATHER SOAP!!



**Imperial Leather Soap**



**School Antibacterial**

After trying all of these products which claimed to kill 99.9% of bacteria, we were shocked to discover the growth of bacteria when even after using our school anti-bacterial soap which was by far the worst, even washing your hands with water was better.



# Risks

## Insufficient hand washing

- Pick up microbes that can cause illnesses such as the cold, flu or diarrhoea.
- Spread germs to other people, but also other parts of the body including your eyes, mouth and cuts on your body.

## Creepy bacteria facts:

- Faecal bacteria are present on 26% of hands in the UK, 14% of banknotes and 10% of credit cards (hygiene experts from Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM))
- Findings suggest 11% of our hands are so "grossly contaminated" they are carrying as many germs as a dirty toilet bowl
- Only 53% of people washed their hands more frequently during the 2009 swine flu pandemic (an international study by Harvard University)