



Tick Identification and Testing

Temporary Suspension of Tick Submissions

The Durham Region Health Department is currently not able to accept tick submissions for identification and potential testing.

How To Remove a Tick:

- Remove it gently with fine-tipped tweezers.
- Do not squeeze, try to burn it off or spray it with insect repellent.
- Grab the tick as close to skin as possible.
- Pull the tick away from skin gently but firmly.
- Place the tick in a jar or bottle

Quickly removing ticks from the skin will help prevent infection as transmission of the Lyme disease-causing bacteria usually requires the tick to be attached to the skin for at least 24 hours.

How can my patients have a tick identified?

If your patient is interested in having the tick identified, eTick.ca is a free online service that uses a photograph of the tick to identify its type.

How can I have the tick tested for tick-borne diseases?

If your patient would like to have a tick tested for the presence of a tick-borne disease, such as Lyme disease, babesiosis and/or anaplasmosis, there are several private laboratories who can test the tick for a fee.

- [Geneticks](#)
- [Entomogen](#)
- [GDG \(Quebec\)](#)

The Health Department has been monitoring reported human cases of Lyme disease over the past few years. In 2020, there were **27** confirmed and **23** probable human cases of LD identified in Durham Region as compared to 59 confirmed and 10 probable human cases identified in 2019.

For more information on Lyme disease, please call the Durham Health Connection Line at 905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613, or visit durham.ca/lyme. For the most up-to-date information on Lyme disease risk areas in Ontario, visit Public Health Ontario's website at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca>

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