

Provincial Laboratory Services



src.healthpei.ca/microbiology

Health PEI
One Island Health System

Patient Self-collected Passive Tick surveillance

April 15, 2019

This information applies to: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

From: Greg German MD PhD FRCPC Medical Microbiologist and Infectious Diseases Physician

In an effort to improve on passive tick surveillance on Prince Edward Island, the laboratory is requesting that members of the public submit ticks that are found on person for analysis.

To facilitate this process, a limited number of collection kits are available at any Health PEI laboratory and are available upon request. The patient or parent must drop off the kit at any Health PEI Laboratory.

After submission, the ticks will be examined to determine if they are black legged ticks and if so, they will then be forwarded to the National Microbiology Laboratory to screen for pathogens (those causing lyme disease, babesiosis, and/ or anaplasmosis)

This passive surveillance is NOT intended to replace testing of those patients who present with symptoms of a tick borne illness or those who have health concerns due to a tick bite.

The information gathered from the examination of the tick (s) will help Health PEI better understand the risk of Lyme disease and other tick borne illnesses on PEI.

Below is a photo of the Ixodes tick for reference:



Ixodes (Deer) Ticks in various fed stages:
A) Nymphal Female B) Adult Female

We have included a frequently asked question sheet as well as a requisition sheet for your reference only. Please continue to use the blue microbiology request form when submitting ticks removed from your clinics and add the required information on the blue form (follow routine practice).

Cc: Dr. Heather Morrison, Dr. Kristen Mead, Brian Timmons, Laboratory Mangers

Posted to <https://src.healthpei.ca/microbiology>