

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

Tick testing in PEI

July 7, 2021

This information applies to: *Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, PEI Laboratories*

Health PEI is partnering with **eTick.ca** to identify ticks found on people, animals or the environment in PEI.

Islanders can take pictures of their ticks and submit them directly to **eTick.ca** or through the free app available through the Apple App store or the Google Play Store. The website and app are both easy to use. An identification through **eTick.ca** typically takes 2 business days. The patient will receive an identification along with general information on typical diseases that particular tick may carry, as well as what to do if they have symptoms.

Since this is a new process and some patients may not have access to tools needed to upload pictures to the website or app, the laboratory is accepting samples. We will photograph the tick and submit it to **eTick.ca** for identification. We are able to provide the patient with an email or letter with the results that come back from **eTick.ca**.

Pathogen testing in ticks is being discontinued by the referral laboratory (ie Lyme testing). This year they will be testing a certain percentage of *Ixodes scapularis* ticks found in PEI. Health PEI has asked **eTick.ca** to direct any patient with an *Ixodes scapularis* tick to submit the specimen to their local laboratory for potential further testing. The results of this testing will only be reported to the Public Health office, they provide yearly surveillance data at the following link:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/lyme-disease-in-pei>

For more information, contact:

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