

Tick Collection Procedure for Lyme Disease Examination

Testing for the causative agent, *Borrelia Burgdorferi*

Tick Removal

- If a tick is found, remove it immediately. Prompt removal can prevent Lyme disease.
- Use a pair of tweezers to grasp the tick's mouth-parts. If you do not have tweezers use your fingers, but protect them with a tissue. Do not squash the tick; spirochetes released in fluids may penetrate skin.
- Slowly and steadily pull the tick straight out; do not twist. Remove mouth-parts left in skin (tick mouth-parts have harpoon like barbs that do not screw into skin).
- DO NOT apply alcohol, fingernail polish, heat (lit match), or petroleum jelly to the tick. Applying heat may cause the tick to regurgitate or secrete saliva, sending disease agents into the bite.
- Clean wound with soap and water. Apply a mild antiseptic if available.
- Save the tick for identification and testing for the Lyme disease spirochete.
- Consult with your physician about questions and treatment if bitten.

Submitting Ticks to Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory for Testing

(Only ticks that are vectors for Lyme disease will be tested for the Lyme organism.)

- Place whole tick, preferably alive, in a small plastic bag and send as soon as possible to the Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory.
- Keep the tick moist in the small plastic bag with a piece of cotton ball damp with water.

Submittal Slip

Fill out *Submittal Slip for Tick ID and IFA* (under "Test Requisition Forms" in this manual)

Be sure to complete:

- Name, Sex, and Date of Birth of victim bitten by tick.
- Where on the body the tick was found.
- Date person was bitten or found the tick on skin.
- The geographic location of the tick (where you were when the tick bit you).
- Address and phone number of the clinic, clinician, or person submitting tick.

Fee

Please call the laboratory at 408.885.4272 for current pricing. Only cash, check and money order are accepted. Make check / money order payable to: **Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory**

Mail tick and payment to:

Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory, 2220 Moorpark Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Jose, CA 95128

SUBMITTAL SLIP FOR TICK ID AND IFA

Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory
2220 Moorpark Ave, 2nd Floor, San Jose, CA 95128
(P) 408.885.4272 | (F) 408.885.4275
CLIA No: 05D0643967
Brandon Bonin, DrPH, HCLD (ABB), Director

LABORATORY USE ONLY	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	_____
CHECK#/CASH:	_____

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE#: _____

PATIENT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

DOB: _____ SEX: _____

BITE LOCATION ON BODY: _____

APPROXIMATE TIME OF ATTACHMENT (hrs): _____

DATE TICK ATTACHED: _____

DATE TICK REMOVED: _____

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION TICK WAS PICKED UP: _____
(COUNTY, CITY, PARK NAME, ETC.) _____

LABORATORY USE ONLY		
TICK SPECIES:	_____	STAGE: _____ SEX: _____
IFA RESULTS:	_____	