

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: November 2, 2016

TICK TESTS POSITIVE FOR LYME DISEASE

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit has confirmed that a blacklegged tick found in North Bay tested positive for the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease. The tick was found embedded in the skin of an individual and was submitted to the Health Unit for testing. Blacklegged ticks are not common to the area; however, it is known that ticks travel on migratory birds. The risk of getting Lyme disease in our area remains low.

For more information, call the Health Unit at 705-474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808, or learn more at myhealthunit.ca/lymedisease.

Quote

“There are steps you can take to protect yourself from being exposed to ticks, which include the use of both protective clothing and tick repellents, checking the entire body for ticks, and prompt removal of attached ticks before they infect you with the bacteria.”

Dr. Jim Chirico
Medical Officer of Health / Executive Officer

Quick Facts

- In the last five years, there have been five human cases of Lyme disease in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit area, of which three were travel-related.
- To date in 2016, 26 ticks have been sent for testing, with 9 being identified as blacklegged. Eight of those 9 ticks have been negative for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.
- **Removing ticks:** Tweezers should be used to remove a tick from the body as soon as possible. Hold the tick gently with the tweezers, as close to its head as possible, and pull it out slowly. Clean the area and apply a bandage if needed.
- **Submitting ticks for testing:** Place the tick in a container and bring it to a health care provider, or the health unit. It will be sent to a laboratory for testing.
- **Symptoms of Lyme disease:** For information on symptoms of Lyme disease, and to find out what to do if you become ill, visit Government of Ontario.
- To learn more about how to protect yourself from being exposed to ticks visit myhealthunit.ca/lymedisease.

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Media Inquiries

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