



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: CHANGE IN TICK IDENTIFICATION SERVICE

Beginning March 1, 2017, we will no longer test blacklegged ticks for Lyme disease infection.

We will continue to provide identification of ticks at no charge.

Why are you no longer testing ticks?	What is active surveillance?	How will tick ID on its own be useful to me?
<p>The tick testing program was started as a research project to study the prevalence of Lyme disease bacteria in blacklegged ticks. Thanks to enthusiastic support from residents, this information is now well established.</p> <p>To further our mission of understanding tick-borne disease risk in Monmouth County, we will be concentrating our resources on studying the prevalence and geographic distribution of other tick-borne diseases in addition to Lyme. This will be accomplished through our new active surveillance program.</p>	<p>Active surveillance is going out and collecting large numbers of ticks from specific locations (instead of relying on ticks brought to us, which is passive surveillance). This allows us to gather and test more ticks from different species for disease-causing microorganisms, and to make more accurate assessments of tick-borne disease risk in a variety of locations. Results of the surveillance will be shared with residents to inform them about tick-borne diseases in their area and encourage them to take preventive measures (repellents, tick checks, etc.)</p>	<p>Tick identification includes species, stage, and engorgement level, which together help narrow down which diseases you could have been exposed to and the likelihood of infection. This information may be useful to your physician in the event you develop symptoms of a tick-borne illness.</p> <p>Tick test results are not necessarily more informative, since a positive tick result does not always mean the person has been infected. Similarly, a negative result can lead to false assurance if there are other undetected tick bites.</p>

Laboratories That Test Ticks From the General Public (current as of Jan 1, 2017)

- This listing is for convenience only, and is not comprehensive. **Inclusion on this list does not constitute endorsement by MCMCD.** All laboratories should be contacted directly for information specific to the tests offered.
- Please remember that tick testing results are not diagnostic of human disease. **If you think you may have a tick-borne disease, please consult with your physician. Symptoms can develop prior to the receipt of tick test results.**

Bay Area Lyme Foundation

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 617 S. Beaver Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86011
<http://www.bayarealyme.org/lyme-disease-prevention/tick-testing/>

IgeneX

Attn: TT
 795 San Antonio Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94303
 (800) 832-3200
<http://www.igenex.com/Website/>

Imugen, Inc

Attn: Tick Testing
 230 Norwood Park South, Norwood, MA 02062
 (781) 355-0770
http://www.imugen.com/tick_testing.html

TickReport

Laboratory of Medical Zoology (LMZ),
 Fernald Hall, University of Massachusetts
 270 Stockbridge Rd., Amherst, MA 01003
 Phone: (413) 545-1057
<https://www.tickreport.com>

New Jersey Laboratories

1110 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 Phone: 732-249-0148, Fax: 732-249-0243
<http://www.njilabs.com/ticktesting/tick%20brochure.pdf>

TickChek Tick Testing Services

562 Independence Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 Phone: 1-866-713-TICK
<https://www.tickchek.com/>