



# Farmington Valley Health District

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## Who may submit ticks?

Ticks will be accepted only from residents of Connecticut.

## Do all ticks that are submitted get tested for Lyme disease?

We accept all ticks for identification but test only those *Ixodes scapularis* ticks that have ingested human blood. We examine all ticks for degree of engorgement. Laboratory personnel test engorged black-legged ("deer") ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) and, upon special request, certain other species of ticks for the presence of spirochetes that cause Lyme disease. We do not test the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*), larval ticks of all species, or unengorged ticks.

## How are results communicated and how long does it take to receive a report?

Results are communicated in writing. Please wait for written communication of results. Phone inquiries cause delays in the analyses of ticks.

Reporting time depends largely on volume of ticks received. Priority will be given to processing and reporting findings on engorged *Ixodes scapularis* ticks.

## What information should be included with the tick?

The following information should accompany the tick: Name, address, and telephone number of person submitting the tick; name, age, and sex of person bitten; date tick was removed; part of body where tick was found; town in which tick was acquired.

## Where should tick samples be sent?

*Please submit samples to:* The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Tick-Testing Laboratory, Slate Building Room 112, 123 Huntington Street, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504. Samples may also be dropped off at the Insect Inquiry Office in Jenkins Laboratory.

## Preparation of Ticks for Submission

Please package the ticks in **crush-proof envelopes or containers** for mailing.

- Please indicate if more than one tick is in a container.
- The best way to send a tick is in a small plastic zipper-locking bag or a clear plastic vial with a tight-fitting lid. Dry ticks are easier for us to process than ticks preserved in alcohol.
- For our safety and ease in handling, please avoid the following: plastic film canisters, especially those which are black; glass containers; ticks mounted on glass slides; and ticks preserved in formalin. Ticks under cellophane tape are also difficult to handle.