

April 15, 2016

Ticks and Lyme Disease...What you need to know

Remember to be tick smart! As day time temperatures rise above 4°C, ticks become active.
If bitten by a tick you may be at risk of getting Lyme disease.

Taking the following precautions will help to reduce your risk:

- Dressing in light coloured clothing makes adult ticks and nymphs (small stage of the tick), easier to see when they are on you as they are darker in colour.
- Always** remember to do a tick check when you return inside.
- Thoroughly check your body for ticks and nymphs and promptly remove and dispose of them.
- Have someone check you from behind if possible or you can take a quick shower to help remove any unattached ticks.
- Putting your clothes in a hot dryer for several minutes has been found to kill ticks.

It is important to know that not all ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Lyme disease transmission depends on the length of time the infected tick is attached. Ticks that are removed quickly and have been attached for less than 24 hours are not likely to transfer the bacteria. However if the tick has been attached for longer than 24 hours you maybe at an increased risk and it is recommended that you consult your health care provider.

Tick specimens are not used for diagnosis of disease so they are no longer accepted at the Health Unit.

Lyme disease symptoms can range from a bulls eye rash around the bite area, to headache, fever and muscle/joint pain. Consult your doctor if you experience any of these symptoms.

For more information about ticks and Lyme disease:

- Visit <http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/documents/lyme.htm>
- Call the Health Unit's Health ACTION Line at 1-800-660-5853
- Email us at contact@healthunit.org
- Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter (@LGLHealthunit) for important public health updates