

DATE: June 21, 2022

TO: Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals
Secondary Principals and Vice-Principals

FROM: Cindy Francis, Senior Manager, Human Resource Services
Lindsay Goerzen, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety (acting)

RE: Ticks & Lyme Disease

This memo serves to provide reminders on first aid procedures related to ticks as Hamilton is still considered a risk area for Lyme disease. However, the overall risk of human infection from Lyme disease in Hamilton remains low.

As a reminder, First Aiders are not trained in tick removal. The First Aid training aligns with the requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 1101: First Aid Requirements, which does not include information and instruction on safe procedures for tick removal. Incorrectly removing a tick may increase the risk of exposure of bacteria. If a student has a tick, parents/guardians should be informed. The student does not need to be sent home if a tick is found. Most ticks are not carriers for the bacteria which causes Lyme disease. Further, if a tick is safely removed within 24 hours, the risk of getting Lyme disease is small.

Hamilton Public Health Services has additional information on their website (<https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/health-topics/lyme-disease-ticks>) for tips on the prevention of tick bites, checking for ticks, and what to do if a tick bites.

ACTION: Please share this information with the school's First Aid team for their awareness.