

## Occupational Health and Safety

# Ticks and Lyme Disease: Information Sheet

### General Information

Most ticks are not carriers for the bacteria which causes Lyme disease. The two types that are found within Hamilton and the surrounding area are called the American Dog tick and the Blacklegged or Deer tick. The American Dog tick is the predominant type found in the area and does not transmit Lyme disease. The Blacklegged tick however can, and is the only known tick in Ontario able to transmit the disease. Further, if a tick is safely removed within 24 hours, the risk of getting Lyme disease is small.

While Hamilton is still considered a risk area for Lyme disease, the overall risk of human infection remains low.

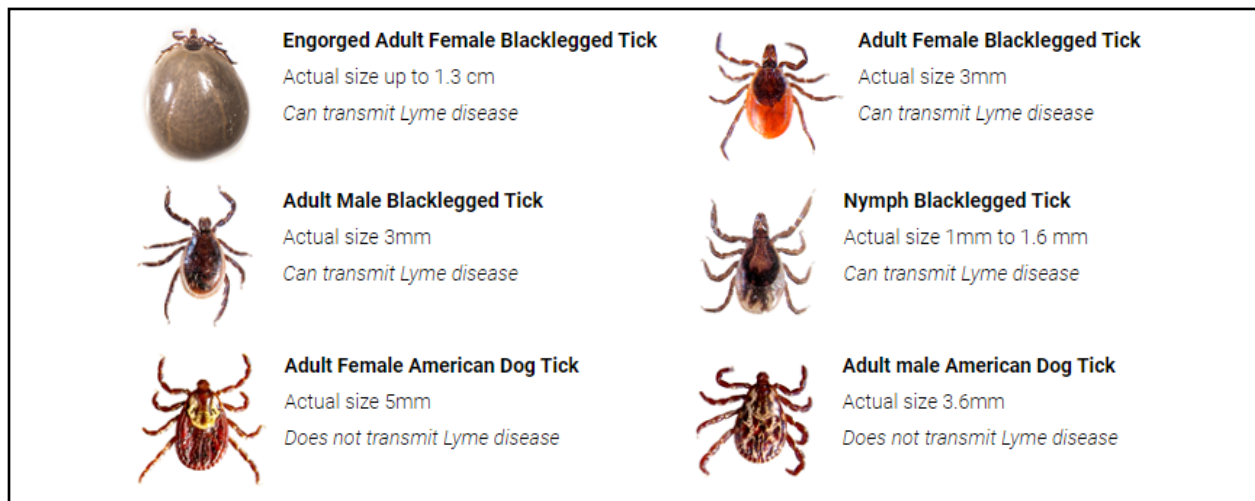


Figure 1 Source: <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/health-topics/lyme-disease-ticks>; Photo credit: URI Tick Encounter Resource Centre

### First Aiders and Tick Removal

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 to bacteria.

### What to do if a Tick is Found

If a student is found to have a tick, their parents/guardians should be informed. The student does not need to be sent home if a tick is found

### Additional Resources and Information

**Hamilton Public Health Services** has additional information on their [website](#) for tips on the prevention of tick bites, checking for ticks, and what to do if a tick bites.