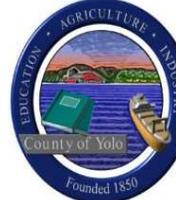


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
2201 COURAGE DRIVE, MS 9-200  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533  
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



<b>Test</b>	Tick identification and testing for Lyme disease in ticks
<b>Test Description</b>	This testing involves tick identification to the genus level and determination of whether the submitted tick is infected with <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> , the causative agent of Lyme disease. To detect the presence of <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> , an indirect fluorescent antibody (IFA) test is performed on the contents of the tick's mid-gut.
<b>Acceptable specimens</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The entire tick should be submitted</li> <li>2. Ticks with missing body parts may or may not be satisfactory for identification and/or Lyme disease testing depending on the condition of the tick and the extent to which it has dried out</li> </ol>
<b>Specimen collection</b>	<p>Ticks should be removed immediately upon noticing them. The following removal procedure is recommended by the CDC (<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html">https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html</a>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use fine-tipped, clean tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.</li> <li>2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick since this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth-parts easily with tweezers, leave them alone and let the skin heal.</li> <li>3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.</li> <li>4. The tick can be kept for identification. To maintain the tick's condition, do not crush the tick. Refer to the specimen storage instructions below.</li> </ol>
<b>Specimen storage</b>	<p>Ticks can be stored refrigerated (2–8°C) in a sealed plastic bag or a sealed container along with a moist paper towel or cotton ball. The paper towel or cotton ball should only be moistened with water.</p> <p><i>Note: Ticks stored in formalin or alcohol solutions CANNOT be tested for Lyme disease (i.e., detection of Borrelia burgdorferi). Also, placing the tick in toilet paper, which can easily shred, or sticking the tick to scotch tape may lead to an unsatisfactory result.</i></p>
<b>Specimen shipping</b>	Ticks can be mailed to the laboratory wrapped in a moist tissue inside a sealed plastic bag. Alternately, ticks can be dropped off at the laboratory or at the Marin Community Clinic. A completed requisition form must accompany the tick.
<b>CPT code</b>	87168
<b>Test fee</b>	Refer to the posted fee schedule. A check or credit card billing information must be submitted with the tick.

**Report availability  
(turnaround time)**

Tick testing for Lyme disease is performed once per week, typically at the end of the week. A tick must be received by the laboratory (not a drop-off location) by Wednesday to ensure that it is tested that week. Persons, who submit a tick that tests positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, will receive a phone call after testing. Negative reports will only be mailed to submitters because of the high volume of tick testing. Please allow for 5 business days from the date of testing to receive a report.