

Instructions for submitting ticks for testing

Ticks brought to or mailed to our office for identification, may be put into a zip-lock plastic bag with water moistened cotton or tissue (we do not submit the ticks for you). If the tick(s) are sent directly to a lab, place the tick into a crush-proof container with moistened cotton or tissue, complete the laboratory's request form and submit. Followings are laboratories available for testing the ticks for Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases:

Specimens that are alive or recently dead may be tested by IFA. The laboratories below will test tick by IFA tests:

1. County of Sonoma, Department of Health Services, Public Health Lab, 3313 Chanate Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 94504, (707) 565-4711. Tick test request form and fees available at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/services/laboratory.asp>
2. Marin County Public Health Lab, 3260 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901, (415) 473-4400, Extension 707. Tick test request form and fees available at <https://www.marinhhs.org/public-health-laboratory-services>
3. Santa Clara County Public Health Lab, 2220 Moorpark Ave., 2nd Fl. San Jose, CA 95128, 408.885-4272. Tick test request form and fees available at <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/sccphd/en-us/Pages/Search.aspx?k=tick%20testing>

A tick in poor shape and dried should be placed in alcohol and tested by PCR. IGeneX, Inc., 797 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto, CA. 94303. Phone: 800-832-3200. Tick test request form and fees available at <http://www.igenex.com>.

For more information, please contact Alameda County Vector Control Services District at 510-567-6800.