

May 25, 2022

Chris Robinson, Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
7855 Sideroad 30, R.R. #1
Alliston, ON L9R 1V1
crobinson@aditos.ca

Dear Chris Robinson:

Re: Lyme Disease Risk Areas for 2022

As a component of vector borne disease surveillance activities at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), staff have undertaken surveillance activities in various community locations in Simcoe and Muskoka to better understand the risk of encountering blacklegged ticks, a known vector of *Borrelia burgdorferi* – the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease. Tick surveillance involves dragging a cloth through the undergrowth along wooded areas to assess the establishment of blacklegged tick populations and associated Lyme disease risk. This occurs twice annually, in the spring and fall, as ticks are more active during this time.

In 2021, surveillance sites included provincial parks (Beattie Pinery, Earl Rowe, and Six Mile Lake) and the Leo Heritage Recreational Trail in Gravenhurst. Criteria used to select surveillance site locations included a review of historical tick submission data and bacterial testing results, consideration of local geography and presence of tick habitat. During this process, SMDHU staff also consulted with Ontario Parks staff and technical experts from Public Health Ontario (PHO). If surveillance activities find ticks in both the spring and fall and if there is evidence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in the tick population, SMDHU considers the tick population and Lyme disease risk to be established in the area.

Following the results of our spring and fall dragging activities at Earl Rowe Provincial Park, a new estimated risk area is now identified. An estimated risk area is calculated from the location where blacklegged ticks are found and includes a 20-kilometre radius from that location. The new risk area includes areas of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Canadian Federal Base Borden, Township of Clearview, Township of Essa, Town of Innisfil and Town of New Tecumseth. You are receiving this letter as information because your municipality falls within the above mentioned 20-kilometre radius. The risk area is now shown on the [Public Health Ontario: Ontario Lyme Disease Map – Estimated Risk Areas in 2022](#). The Estimated Risk Areas Map is primarily intended to assist health care providers in clinical assessment of individuals presenting with potential Lyme disease. This is an opportunity to remind our communities that ticks that carry Lyme disease are present in our area; you may wish to communicate risk prevention measures by linking to our resources available at www.smdhu.org/lyme.

Barrie:
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

Midland:
A-925 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

Orillia:
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091

It is possible to encounter ticks anywhere throughout Simcoe Muskoka. As a result, SMDHU will continue to educate its residents regarding the risk of encountering blacklegged ticks within Simcoe Muskoka. The results of our active surveillance remind us of the importance of reducing our risk of Lyme disease by protecting ourselves against tick bites while enjoying the outdoors. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 1-877-721-7520 Ext. 7219 or by email at Charles.Gardner@smdhu.org.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

CG:SR:sh