



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Tick Testing Program Frequently Asked Questions

### How does the program work?

The UMass Laboratory of Medical Zoology tests ticks from all over the world for tick-borne diseases. Through a partnership with the Lab and the other member towns of Gill's Health District, the Cooperative Public Health Service, residents of Gill would receive \$50 tick tests for \$15.

**Why is the Board of Health considering offering this service to residents?** Lyme Disease is the fastest growing infectious disease in our region, and reported cases of other tick-borne diseases are also steadily increasing. Ticks are active in 9 to 12 months of the year now, so the risk of infection is year-round. Tick testing allows people to be informed advocates for their own health, while also contributing data to the study of the spread of tick-borne disease.

**Which ticks can be tested?** Any tick found attached to a human resident of Gill can be removed, stored in a plastic baggie and submitted for testing.

**How do I get the tick to the Lab?** Residents visit [www.tickreport.com](http://www.tickreport.com) to register, give information and pay. You can drop the tick off between 10 and 4 in Amherst, or mail it in a plastic bag.

**How long will it take to get my test back?** You will receive an emailed report between 1-5 days.

**What will the test tell me?** It will tell you whether your tick tested positive for Lyme, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, or Ehrlichiosis. It will NOT tell you whether you have contracted these diseases, but will allow you to be better informed when working with your medical provider.

**What will this cost the Town?** Thanks to the partnership with other towns, the test subsidies are \$15 each for the Town, and \$15 for the resident.

