Lyme Disease
Resources for Primary Health Care Providers

Primary Resource: Public Health Ontario - Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease Testing
- As of April 2023, Public Health Ontario is testing for Lyme disease using a modified two-tiered testing (MTTT) algorithm.
- Although MTTT improves sensitivity during early-localized disease, management of patients should be based on the overall clinical picture present. This is due to the possibility of false negatives in serological results early on in the disease’s course.
- Serology is not required for public health reporting for clinician-confirmed erythema migrans of > 5 cm.
- If European Lyme is suspected, the testing requisition must specify European Lyme serology, detailing a tick bite exposure and recent travel history (≤ 12 months,) including location and dates. See endemic risk section.

Clinical Guidance
- Doxycycline is the preferred antibiotic treatment for early Lyme disease in both children and adults.
- Ontario Clinical Guidance on Early Localized Lyme Disease

Endemic/Risk Areas
Ontario: www.publichealthontario.ca (search “Ontario Lyme disease risk areas map” - updated annually)
USA: Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/index.html
International: International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT) www.iamat.org/risks/lyme-disease

Additional Resources for Lyme Disease
- Ontario Lyme Disease information
- Canada Lyme Disease Information: Symptoms and Treatment

Alternate formats of this document are available upon request.
Region of Waterloo Public Health and Paramedic Services
Infectious Disease Program