



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Environmental

Test Name: Arthropod Identification and Tick Testing

Test Includes: Identification of medically significant insects and many pests. Identification and testing of ticks and testing for the presence of Lyme disease bacteria.	
Reporting	
Results Available: Fridays by fax or regular mail	Contact Number: 650-573-2500
Reference	
Method: Microscopic examination of arthropod. Direct fluorescent antibody and darkfield examination of tick contents for <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> bacteria	
Turnaround Time: Five working days	Reference Range: No borrelia detected
Limitations: Specimen too damaged, dried out or ruptured	Interpretation: Medically significant insects and arthropods identified. Presence of Lyme disease bacteria determined on appropriate ticks.
Specimen Requirements	
Specimen Collection: Entire specimen placed in hard container (preferred) or sealed zip-lock bag..	Sample Type: Ticks or other medically significant arthropods
Volume/Amount Required:	Preferred Specimen: Whole insect
Collection/Preservation: Specimen kept moist if not delivered to lab immediately.	Storage Instructions: Keep cool or refrigerate when possible.
Causes for Rejection:	Sample Container: Any hard container or sealable plastic bag
Sample Test Kit:	Availability: Monday through Friday, 8-5
Diagnostic Information: Only Ixodes ticks carry Lyme disease bacteria.	
Specimen Submission	
Request Form: Arthropod/Insect Test Request	Specimen Handling:
Transport Temperature:	Shipping Requirements: Should be mailed in sealed rigid container placed in an appropriate shipping envelope. Ship with payment and complete return information.
Billing	
Effective Date: June 15, 2011	Fee: \$25.00 (payable in advance)