

Ontario blacklegged tick surveillance: Quick guide for Public Health Units

This guide supports Ontario public health units in planning for blacklegged tick surveillance. It is excerpted from the PHO's [Technical report: Update on Lyme disease prevention and control, 2nd edition](#). Risk area is a term used to describe locations in Southern Ontario where there is an increased risk of Lyme disease. For PHUs in which there are known Lyme disease risk areas (Category 1: PHUs with known risk areas and/or high numbers of tick submissions and Category 2: PHUs with known risk areas and/or moderate numbers of tick submissions), PHO has encouraged a shift from passive tick surveillance to active tick surveillance. For more information, visit www.publichealthontario.ca/lymedisease.

Blacklegged tick surveillance categories for public health units

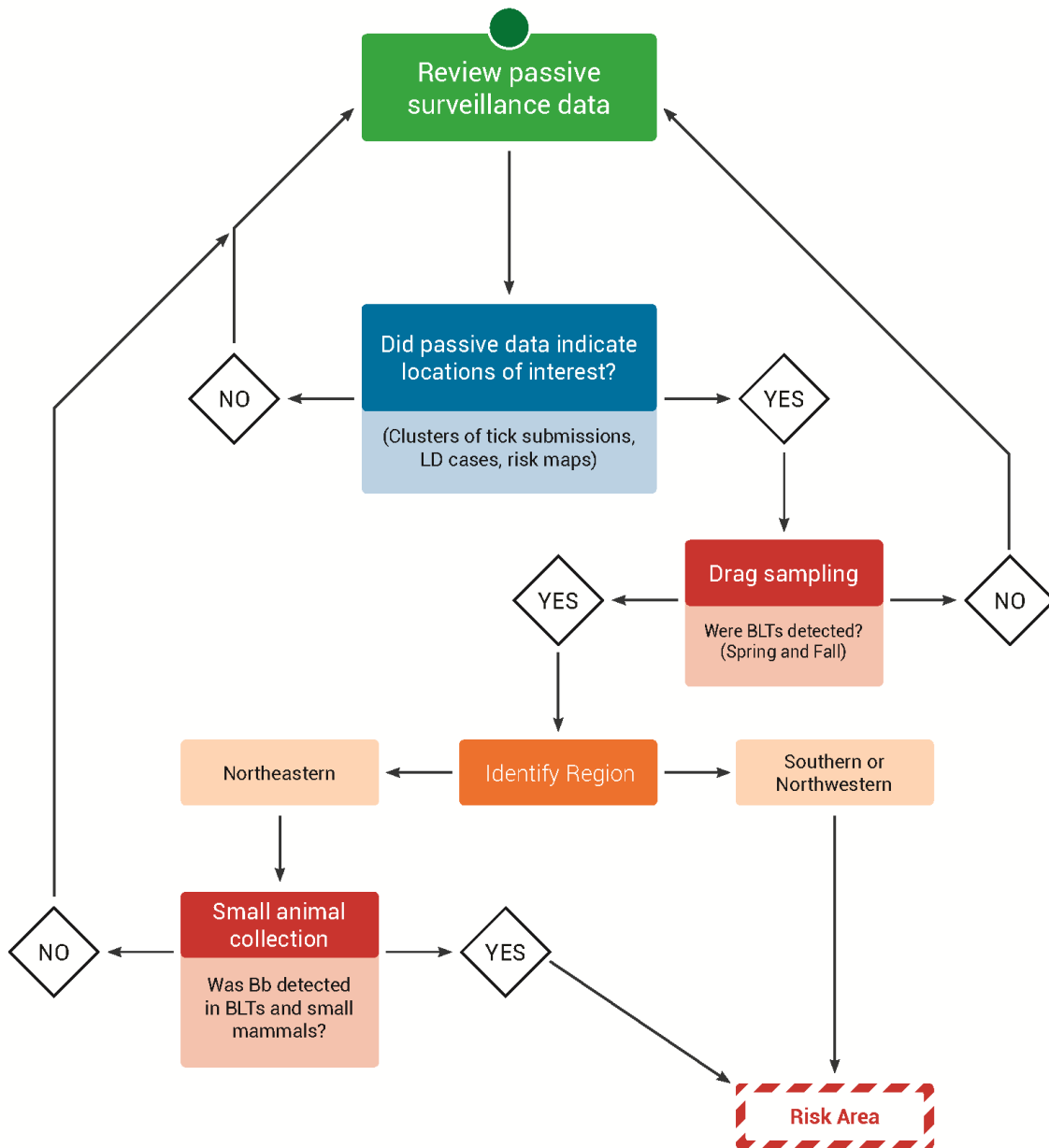
Categories	Average number blacklegged ticks submitted per year*	Known risk area(s) present**	Passive tick surveillance (via physicians)	Passive tick surveillance (PHU via public)	Active tick surveillance (tick dragging) [†]	Active tick surveillance (small mammal trapping)
1: PHUs with known risk areas and/or high numbers of tick submissions	>250	Yes	No	Not recommended	Yes	No
2: PHUs with known risk areas and/or moderate numbers of tick submissions	10 ≤ n < 250	Yes	Outside of risk areas	Outside of risk areas	Yes	No
3: Other PHUs with no risk areas and low numbers of tick submissions	<10	No	Yes	Yes	If indicated by passive surveillance	If indicated by passive surveillance and tick dragging

* Average number of blacklegged ticks submitted per year through passive surveillance, last 3 years

** Risk areas as identified in PHO's [Ontario Lyme disease estimated risk areas map: 2016](#).

[†] Perform tick dragging twice a year, once in spring and again in fall

Tick surveillance decision tree



For advice or consultation, please contact PHO's Enteric, Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease team at ezvbd@oahpp.ca.

Public Health Ontario acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Government.