

September 2007

Arthropod Identification Services – Policy Change

To Health Care Providers:

Effective immediately, Ontario Public Health Laboratory (OPHL) will no longer identify arthropods from non-clinical or environmental specimens. This policy change will have no impact on the existing Tick Surveillance Program in which we will continue to participate. Refer arthropods of interest obtained from non-clinical or environmental sources including food to the Pest Diagnostic Clinic at the University of Guelph. This Clinic will identify arthropods on a fee-for-service basis. Submission forms are available at www.labservices.uoguelph.ca/files_95stone/PDC/PDCSubmissionForm.pdf.

Common examples of arthropods that should now be sent to the Pest Diagnostic Clinic include:

- Insects of concern from gardens, households, or sandboxes;
- Non-parasitic biting or stinging arthropods such as spiders and bees/wasps;
- Insects found in, or on, food.

Common examples of arthropods that should continue to be referred to the OPHL include:

- Ticks removed from a human or animal;
- Suspected lice, fleas, bed bugs, or mites removed from a human;
- Suspected maggots removed from a human.

For Further Information:

- Refer to the University of Guelph Pest Diagnostic Clinic at <http://www.labservices.uoguelph.ca/labserv/units/pdc/>
- OPHL Parasitology Laboratory at (416) 235-5722