

# Emerging Tick-Borne Diseases: Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan Virus

## INFORMATION FOR YORK REGION HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

July 4, 2023

- On **July 1, 2023**, Tick-Borne Diseases (TBDs) Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus (POWV) were designated reportable as Diseases of Public Health Significance (DoPHS)
- These new pathogens are now reportable to [public health](#).
- All three of these TBDs may be transmitted by the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) which also spreads Lyme Disease.
- York Region is identified as a [Lyme disease risk area](#) where blacklegged ticks have been identified and people may come into contact with infected ticks.

### MORE INFORMATION ON ANAPLASMOSIS, BABESIOSIS AND POWASSAN VIRUS:

Anaplasmosis: US CDC [Anaplasmosis: Information for Healthcare Providers](#)

Babesiosis: US CDC [Babesiosis: Resources for Health Professionals](#)

Powassan Virus Infection: US CDC [Powassan Virus: For Healthcare Providers](#)

Public Health Ontario will be developing disease-specific pages [available here](#).

### MORE INFORMATION ON TESTING, VISIT PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO:

- PHO [Anaplasma serology](#)
- PHO [Babesia serology](#)
- PHO [Powassan Virus](#)

### ADVISE PATIENTS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF TBD BY:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin when outside and apply it according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Cover up exposed skin when you go outside by wearing long-sleeved shirts or jackets, long pants and socks
- Search your body for ticks after spending time outdoors
- Remove attached ticks from your body as soon as possible
- Pay special attention to the following body areas: groin, scalp, underarm and back
- Check your pets regularly for ticks. Although they cannot spread Lyme disease, dogs and cats can bring infected ticks into your home
- Permethrin-treated clothing may provide protection against ticks and mosquitoes
- For more information, visit [York Region's Infectious Diseases and Prevention pages](#)



The blacklegged (deer) tick

**Report all suspected or confirmed anaplasmosis,  
babesiosis and Powassan virus to**

**York Region Public Health**

**1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588**

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

**905-953-6478**

After hours, including weekends and holidays

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York Region