

Dear Cape Cod Resident,

The New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC) is seeking your help to better understand residential tick control. NEWVEC began as a partnership of university research teams from each of the six New England states joining with state and local health departments and agricultural extension programs to discover, evaluate, and promote practices that reduce the burden of tick- and mosquito-borne diseases.

In the past years NEWVEC launched **Project ITCH** [acronym for “*Is Tick Control Helping*”], which is funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and has the University of Massachusetts, Amherst as it’s organizational site. We sampled residential yards throughout New England, including Cape Cod, for ticks and documented factors that might impact the tick population. This year, we are partnering with AmeriCorps Cape Cod to recruit property owners that are currently **not** treating and or are treating their property to control ticks. We plan to compare TREATED properties with UNTREATED properties to determine what is working to reduce ticks.

As a Cape Cod resident, you could qualify to have your property be a part of this study. Here’s what participation would entail.:

1. Take this [Google survey](#) (5 min) to provide your contact information and see if you are eligible.

From here, Project ITCH staff will review data and randomly select some households for tick evaluation. If you are selected, participation will include:

2. Project ITCH staff will contact you about visiting your home for a tick evaluation. For this, we’ll gather ticks from your property and make note of other important yard factors, like what plants you have growing in your yard. You won’t have to be home when we do this tick assessment.

At the end of the study, we will share what we learned with participating residents and the public. None of your personal information will be made public; it will be kept confidential and only seen by research staff. We don’t anticipate any risks to you or your property. Your participation will help us develop better strategies to prevent mosquito and tick diseases in New England.

To learn more about NEWVEC and Project ITCH, bookmark our [web page](#) and/or sign-up to receive updates on NEWVEC projects