

PREVENTING TICK BITES

Avoid Contact with Ticks

- Avoid tall grassy areas, and areas with lots of brush and vegetation. These can harbor ticks.
- Walk in the center of trails
- Check indoor/outdoor dogs and pets
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors

Repel Ticks

- Wear insect repellent that contains 20% - 30% DEET. This can repel ticks for several hours.
- Wear pre-treated clothes, which can be purchased at an outdoor store
- Always follow label instructions when using any insect repellent

Find and Remove Ticks

- Conduct full body tick checks after coming inside. Ticks tend to attach under the arms, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, around ears and along hair lines
- Bath or shower after coming indoors to find any crawling ticks
- Dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for an hour to kill any remaining ticks

PREVENTING TICKS IN YOUR YARD

- Clear tall grass and brush from lawns and around homes
- Have 3 feet of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas and around patios and play equipment
- Mow regularly and keep leaves raked
- Keep playground equipment away from yard edges and trees
- Remove old furniture, mattresses and trash from the yard
- Treat pets to protect them from ticks

If you have found or have been bitten by a tick and would like to have it tested, contact us!

For more information:

**Darke County General Health
District**

300 Garst Avenue Greenville, OH 45331

Phone: 937-548-4196

Fax: 937-548-9654

www.darkecountyhealth.org

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Ticks





American Dog Tick

Dermacentor variabilis

Ornamentation on the back. Active March – July. Found in grassy areas near walking paths.

Tick Life Cycle

- Ticks are arachnids, similar to spiders and mites
- They have several life stages – egg, larva, nymph, adult
- All life stages feed on blood for nutrition
- It can take anywhere from 10 minutes to several hours for a tick to feed
- They can eat as much as 600 times their weight in blood.



Lone Star Tick

Amblyomma americanum

Slightly ornamented, the females have a 'star' on their back. Active April-August and live in forests and shrubs.

Tick Borne Diseases

Ticks can spread several diseases as they feed. Some diseases in Ohio include Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Powassan virus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and others.

Many people with a tick borne disease do not remember getting bitten by a tick. Many tick borne diseases can be life threatening if there are serious delays in seeking care.



Black legged Tick (Deer Tick)

Ixodes scapularis

Active all year round. Found in forests and shrubs. No ornamentation

How to Remove Ticks

If you find a tick feeding on you, remove it with a pair of fine tweezers. Grabbing the tick as close to the skin as possible and pulling straight up ensures the mouthparts will be removed along with the rest of the tick. Ticks should then be killed, and the bite area thoroughly cleaned. If there is a concern about disease, the tick should be sent to the Ohio Department of Health.

***Visit your local health department for more information, or go to <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ticks>**