

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tick season is here!

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. May 7, 2019 - Spring brings sunshine, warmer weather—and ticks. As soon as the weather hits 40 degrees, ticks become more active. Eau Claire County is home to three different ticks: deer ticks, wood tick and the lone star tick. These ticks can carry bacteria and viruses that can cause disease in humans. Lyme disease is a common disease that is transmitted from deer ticks. In 2017, there were **60 reported** cases of Lyme disease in Eau Claire County. The actual number of cases is probably much higher.

Ticks in OUR community:



Deer (or Bear) Tick



Wood (or Dog) Ticks



Lone Star Tick

“We want to help protect you, your family and your pets from tick diseases this summer so you can continue to enjoy the outdoors,” says Savannah Bergman, Chemist-Microbiologist.

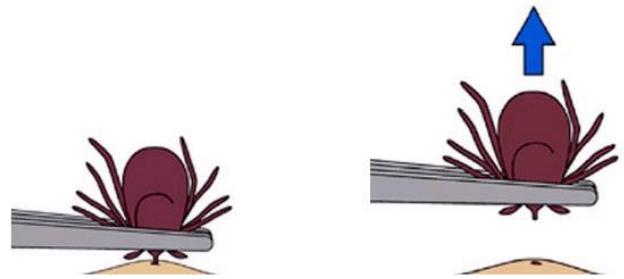
How to prevent tick bites:

- Use repellents with **20-30% DEET** (or an alternative active ingredient) on exposed skin and clothing.
- Permethrin is effective against tick bites. It lasts for days to weeks on your clothing. Do **NOT** apply on skin.
- **ALWAYS** help children apply repellents. Apply according to the labeled instructions.
- **NEVER** apply repellents to infants under 2 months of age.
- Check with your veterinarian for tips to prevent Lyme disease in your pets.
- After being outdoors...
 - Check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks. (Check the **armpits, scalp, and groin areas!**)
 - Take a shower or bath as soon as possible. This will wash off any unattached ticks from your body.
 - Toss your clothes in the dryer on high heat to kill any remaining ticks.
 - **10** minutes for dry clothes. **60** minutes for wet clothes

How to remove a tick:

Remove ticks as soon as possible. In most cases, ticks must be attached for 36-48 hours or more before Lyme disease can be transmitted.

- Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible.
- Pull up with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick. This may cause the mouth parts to be left in your skin.
- After the tick is removed, clean the area thoroughly with soap and water.



For more information about tick-borne diseases, visit www.ehealthdepartment.org or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>.

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