

Tick Bite Prevention

Be aware of your surroundings!

- People and pets most often encounter ticks in shady, moist wooded and grassy areas and fields near wooded areas
- Ticks are most active in Michigan April-September, but can be active when outdoor temperatures are at least 40°F
- Ticks are rarely encountered indoors unless brought inside on a person's clothing or by a pet

Take precautions before visiting areas with ticks

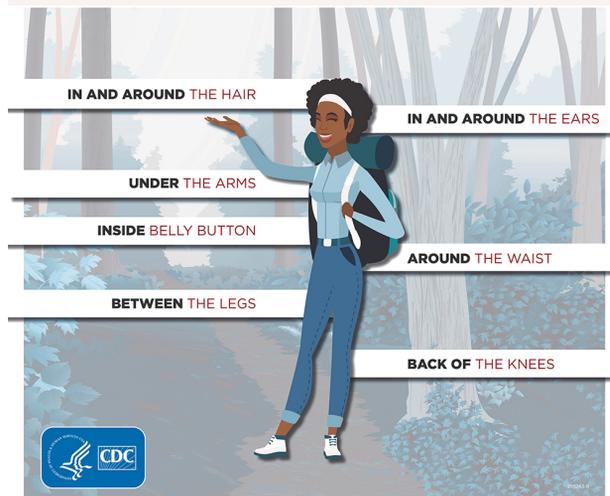
- Apply EPA-registered insect repellent to skin or clothing according to the label's instructions
- Walk in the center of trails and avoid walking in areas with tall grass and brush
- Check yourself and pets all over for ticks after spending time outdoors
- Talk to your vet about tick bite prevention products for your pets

Tick Removal

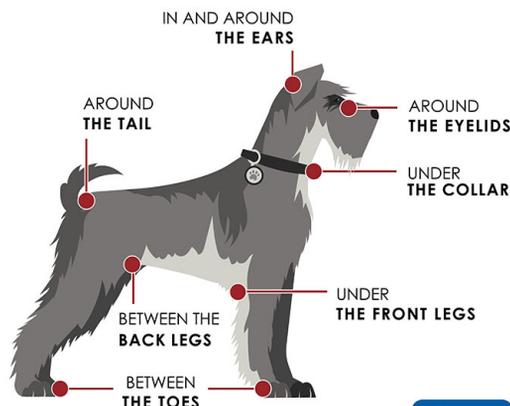
1. With fine-tipped tweezers or a tick removal key, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible.
2. Slowly and firmly pull the tick straight out. Do not twist, spin, or jerk the tick.
 - The tick's mouthparts may remain in the skin. If the mouthparts cannot be removed easily, leave the bite site alone to heal.
3. Wash the bite site and your hands with soap and water, then apply an antiseptic to the bite site
4. Save the tick in a small, clean sealable container for later identification.

Check your clothing and body for ticks after being outdoors in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas where ticks live!

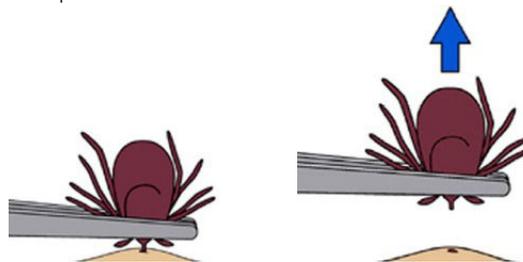
CHECK THESE PARTS OF YOUR BODY AND YOUR CHILD'S BODY FOR TICKS:



WHERE TO CHECK YOUR PET FOR TICKS



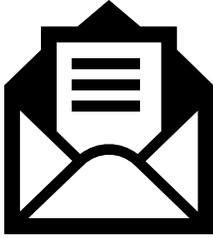
↑ Conduct a full-body check for ticks after spending time outdoors. Ticks can attach anywhere on the body but tend to prefer the locations indicated above.



↑ With tweezers or tick removal key, grab an attached tick as close to your skin as possible, then slowly and firmly pull straight up to remove the tick.

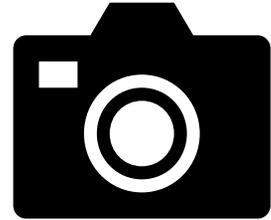
Tick Identification

MDHHS EZID offers tick identification free of charge to Michigan residents and visitors



via specimens mailed to us

OR



via photos sent over e-mail

1. Place the tick in a clean, small, sealable container (e.g., an old pill bottle).
2. Print and complete the [Tick Identification Form](#).
3. Mail the container with the tick along with the identification form in a padded envelope to:

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
EZID Section
333 S Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
PO Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48933

4. On the outside of the envelope write "FRAGILE" or "HANDLE WITH CARE" to help prevent damage to the package when shipped.

Tick submission kits may also be available from your local health department.

1. Place the tick on a well-lit background.
2. Take a picture as close to the tick as possible, making sure the picture is not blurry.
3. Flip the tick over. Take a picture of this side of the tick like in step 2.
4. Email the two pictures and information about when and where you likely encountered the tick to:

MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov

**GOT A TICK?
SUBMIT A PIC!**

Click here for more information on picture ID

