

Deer Tick Information

- The deer tick can transmit Lyme disease and possibly ehrlichiosis to humans.
- Deer ticks are found in wooded areas along trails. The larvae and nymphs are active in the spring and early summer; adults may be active in both the spring and fall.
- The deer tick has been found sporadically in many Illinois counties. Additionally, Illinois residents may encounter the deer tick during trips to Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, or the northeastern United States where it is very common in some areas.

Known Geographic Distribution of *Ixodes scapularis* by county in Illinois, 2012

Ixodes scapularis is also known as the "deer tick" and the "black-legged tick." *Amblyomma americanum*, the lone star tick, and *Dermacentor variabilis*, the American dog tick, should be presumed present throughout the state.

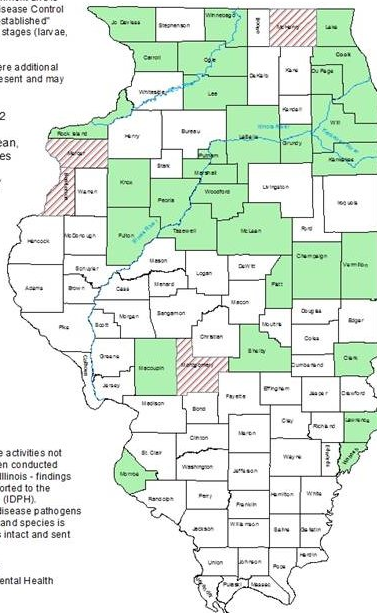
Shaded counties denote where the "deer tick" has been found repeatedly in the environment and is believed established. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria for "established" ticks are at least six ticks or two life stages (larvae, nymphs, adults) identified.

Cross-hatched counties denote where additional reports suggest the "deer tick" is present and may be established.

Counties added during 2012

Established: Champaign, McLean, Shelby and Woodford counties

Suspected: Mercer County



Additional tick and host surveillance activities not depicted on this map may have been conducted by other agencies/organizations in Illinois - findings reflected on this map are those reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). IDPH does not perform testing for disease pathogens in ticks, but identification for genus and species is performed by IDPH when the tick is intact and sent in a crush-proof container to:

Illinois Department of Public Health
Entomologist, Division of Environmental Health
525 W. Jefferson St. - 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
(217) 782-5830

January 2013

Your Home and Ticks

- Keep your grass mowed and keep weeds cut. Clean up items that attract rodents, which can carry ticks, such as spilled birdseed and hiding places like old wood piles.
- If ticks are present in vegetation along the edge of the property, insecticides labeled for control of ticks can be applied to small areas of high weeds that cannot be mowed.



Your Pets and Ticks

- Free-roaming dogs and cats are much more likely to encounter ticks than those that are confined to the home or yard.
- If ticks are found on pets, contact your veterinarian for information about an appropriate tick treatment.

Information in this brochure obtained from IDPH
Updated 3/2013



Promoting Health, Preventing Illness,
and Protecting Our Environment

Ticks



Crawford County Health Department

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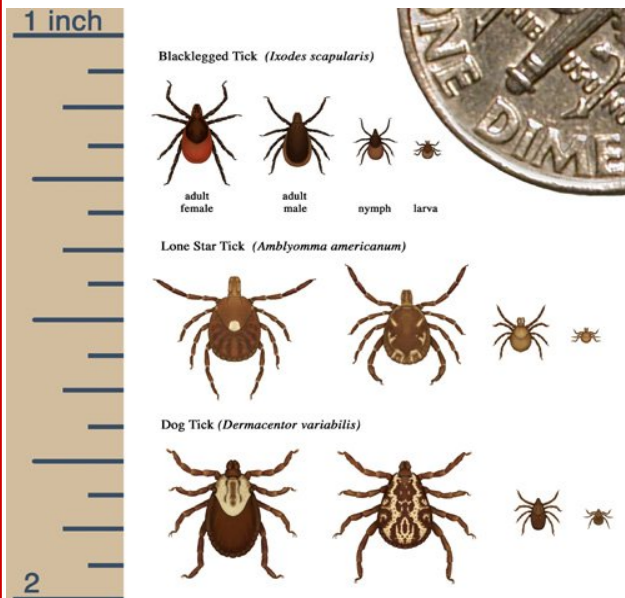
Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
8:00am—5:00pm
Tuesday
8:00am—7:00pm

Tick Information

What you might like to know...

- Ticks wait for host animals from the tips of grasses and shrubs (not from trees).
- When brushed by a moving animal or person, they quickly let go of the vegetation and climb onto the host.
- Ticks can only crawl; they cannot fly or jump.
- Although at least 15 species of ticks occur in Illinois, only a few of these ticks are likely to be encountered by people.
- During the last several years, about 75 percent of the ticks submitted to Department staff have been identified either as the American dog tick or as the lone star tick.



Avoiding Ticks

If you visit wooded areas...

- Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, boots or sturdy shoes, and a head covering.
- Ticks are easier to detect on light-colored clothing.
- Apply insect repellent containing 10 percent to 30 percent DEET primarily to clothes. Apply sparingly to exposed skin. Do not spray directly to the face; spray the repellent onto hands and then apply to face.
- Walk in the center of trails so weeds do not brush against you. In camping areas, individuals who sit on the ground or disturb leaf litter on the forest floor may encounter ticks.
- Check yourself, children, and other family members every two to three hours for ticks. Most ticks seldom attach quickly and rarely transmit disease organisms until they have been attached four or more hours. If your pets spend time outdoors, check them for ticks, too.



Removing Ticks

If you find a tick...

- **The health department and IDPH are not able to test ticks for diseases such as Lyme disease. We can only identify the species of tick.**
- If ticks are crawling on the outside of clothes, they can be removed with tape.
- Do not burn the tick with a match or cover it with petroleum jelly or nail polish.
- Do not use bare hands to remove the tick.
- The best way to remove a tick is to grasp it firmly with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and gently, but firmly, pull it straight out. Do not twist or jerk the tick.
- Wash the bite area and your hands thoroughly with soap and water and apply an antiseptic to the bite site.
- Ticks can be safely disposed of by placing them in a container of soapy water or alcohol or flushing them down the toilet.
- If you have an unexplained illness with fever, contact a physician. Be sure to tell the physician if you have been outdoors in areas where ticks were present.

