



# IDPH Vector Surveillance and Control Program

Samantha Kerr, MS



Illinois Tickborne Disease Resources: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>

## Tickborne Illnesses

Anaplasmosis

Babesiosis

Ehrlichiosis

Lyme Disease ▼

Rocky Mountain Spotted  
Fever ▼

Tularemia

Common Ticks ▼

Tick Surveillance Map

Vector Control & Surveillance

## Tickborne Illnesses

PUBLICATIONS >



### Anaplasmosis

Anaplasmosis is an illness spread by ticks infected with the bacteria *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. These bacteria can be spread to humans by blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), also known as deer ticks.

### Babesiosis

What is Babesiosis? Babesiosis is caused by microscopic parasites that infect red blood cells. *Babesia microti* is the main species that has been found in people in the United States. How do people get

# Illinois Tickborne Disease Resources: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>



## Publications

[Illinois ABC's of Tickborne Disease \(Preschool - Grade 2\) - Color](#)

[Illinois ABC's of Tickborne Disease \(Grade 3 - Grade 6\) - Color](#)

[Illinois ABC's of Tickborne Disease \(Preschool - Grade 2\) - Black & White](#)

[Illinois ABC's of Tickborne Disease \(Grade 3 - Grade 6\) - Black & White](#)

[Tick and Mosquito Prevention Camper Checklist](#)

[Notification to Parent/Guardian of Tick Found on Student](#)

[Notification of Field Trip Tick Alert](#)

[Illinois Tick Detectives Workbook](#)

[Don't Let a Tick Make You Sick Flyer](#)

[Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Pocket Card](#)


[Lyme Disease Pocket Card](#)

[Reported Tickborne Cases 2012-2022](#)

[Tickborne Disease Incidence Maps](#)

[Tick Prevention Poster](#)

# NEW! IDPH Educational Materials: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>

**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Department of Public Health

## NOTIFICATION OF FIELD TRIP

### TICK ALERT

Your child is scheduled to take part in an outdoor activity in an area that ticks may inhabit. While we will take precautions to prevent unnecessary exposure, you should thoroughly check your child's body when they return home and for several days following the trip. Below are suggestions on how to protect your child from tick bites and what you should do if your child is bitten.


Children should be taught to seek adult help for tick removal. Improper removal can increase the risk of disease transmission. Do not crush, burn, or try to smother the tick, as it may release infected fluids.

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_




### REDUCE CHANCES OF A TICK BITE

Encourage children to walk in the center of the trails.

- Wear light-colored long pants and long sleeves so you can easily see any ticks. Wear socks and sneakers. No sandals.
- Tuck the shirt into pants and tuck the pants into socks. Consider using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. Do not use products containing OLE or PMD on children under 3 years old. Follow all product label directions.
- If you are using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- Consider pre-treating clothing with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Follow all product label directions.
- Do a thorough tick check upon returning inside, when your child gets home, and for several days following the trip. Here's where to look:





Developed in collaboration with the Illinois Lyme Association




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### WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN

- Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Do not grasp the body of the tick.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers. If you cannot remove the mouth easily with tweezers, consider contacting your health care provider.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, a sealed bag/container, or wrapping it tightly in tape. Consider saving the tick in a bag for identification.
- Note the person's name, date, bite site, and estimated tick attachment duration.
- Consult a health care provider if a rash, fever, or flu-like symptoms develop within several weeks of tick removal.
- Visit the IDPH website for more information: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>



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## Notification to Parent/Guardian of Tick Found on Student

This notification informs you that a tick was found and removed from a student per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tick removal guidelines. The tick has been taped to the bottom of this sheet in case it is needed for identification or diagnostics.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

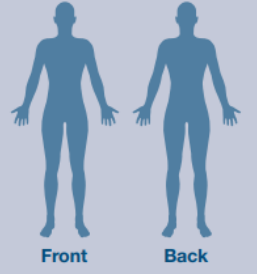
Body Location	# of Ticks Removed

### MONITOR FOR SYMPTOMS OF TICKBORNE DISEASE

Ticks found in Illinois and other nearby states carry germs that can transmit disease and make people sick. You should contact your child's health care provider if you notice any signs or symptoms of illness, such as fever, flu-like symptoms, or a skin rash for several weeks following the tick bite. Most tickborne diseases can be treated with antibiotics if recognized and diagnosed promptly.


The most common illness caused by ticks that bite and attach for more than 24 hours is Lyme disease. Lyme disease symptoms include fever, chills, headache, tiredness, muscle and joint aches, swollen lymph nodes, and a bullseye rash or atypical rash. A bullseye rash only occurs in 70-80% of infected persons. Other tickborne illnesses, which can transmit in under 24 hours, include spotted fever group rickettsiosis, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis. Symptoms of these illnesses can be similar to Lyme disease but can also include spotted rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite.

For more information about ticks and how to prevent bites, visit: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>




Tick(s) removed from:



Front Back



TAPE TICK(S) HERE



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## Tick and Mosquito Prevention

### CAMPER CHECKLIST

**Getting ready for summer?**  
Use a checklist to make sure that you have the tools on hand to prevent tick and mosquito bites.



**Ticks and mosquitoes**  
are common at outdoor events and camps in Illinois.

**West Nile Virus**  
is the most common disease you can get from mosquitoes in Illinois.

**Lyme disease**  
is the most common disease you can get from ticks in Illinois (and the United States).  
Less common diseases that you can get from ticks in Illinois include:

- Anaplasmosis
- Babesiosis
- Ehrlichiosis
- Spotted fever group rickettsioses

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<https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>



Adapted from the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Camp Checklist

#### BEFORE CAMP

- ☐ **Pack insect repellent.**  
Select a repellent that is U.S. EPA-registered for ticks and mosquitoes. Look for ingredients like DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- ☐ **Spray clothes, shoes, and gear with permethrin.**  
Permethrin is an insecticide that kills ticks and mosquitoes on contact. You can use permethrin to pre-treat shoes, clothes, sleeping bags, tents, and other gear.
- ☐ **Pack a tick removal tool.**  
Pack a tick remover, such as tweezers, for removing ticks in case you find a tick attached to your body.

#### AT CAMP


- ☐ **Use insect repellent every day.**  
Spray your exposed skin and over your clothes every morning and reapply throughout the day.
- ☐ **Check for ticks regularly.**  
Check for ticks throughout the day. Good times to encourage campers to conduct a thorough tick check are at meals, before swimming, during shower time, and at the end of the day.
- ☐ **Remove any ticks you find promptly.**  
Encourage campers to ask an adult for help.

#### AFTER CAMP

- ☐ **Place all clothes and washable gear in the dryer.**  
Dry clothes for 10 minutes on high heat to remove any ticks that may be on them.
- ☐ **Shower after returning from camp.**  
Soap and water can remove any ticks that are crawling.
- ☐ **Watch for tick and mosquito disease signs.**  
If you feel sick with flu-like symptoms (especially during the summer) like fever, joint or body aches, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or a rash, see a health care provider.

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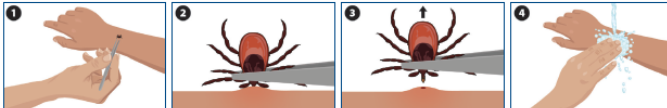
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Illinois Department of Public Health

## Tick Bite: What to Do

Tick bites can make people sick. Below are some steps that you can take after a tick bite to reduce your chances of getting sick and how to get treatment promptly if you do get sick.

### Remove the tick as soon as possible

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as you can.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick.
3. After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Dispose of the tick by flushing it down the toilet. If you would like to bring the tick to your health care provider for identification, put it in rubbing alcohol or place it in a sealed bag/container.



### Consider calling your health care provider



In general, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend taking antibiotics after tick bites to prevent tickborne diseases. However, in certain circumstances, a single dose of doxycycline after a tick bite may lower your risk of Lyme disease. Consider talking to your health care provider if you live in an area where Lyme disease is common.


### Watch for symptoms for 30 days

Call your health care provider if you get any of the following:

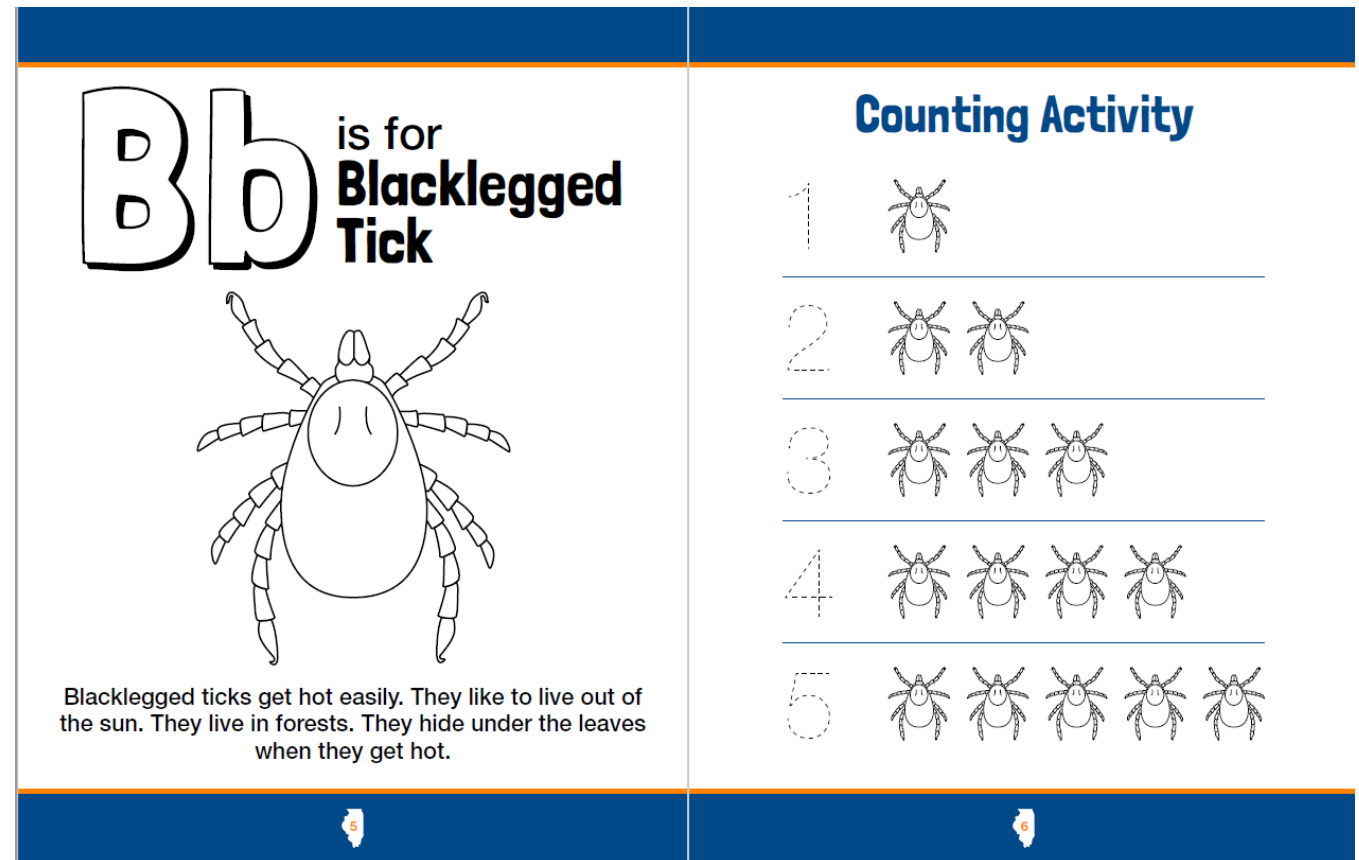
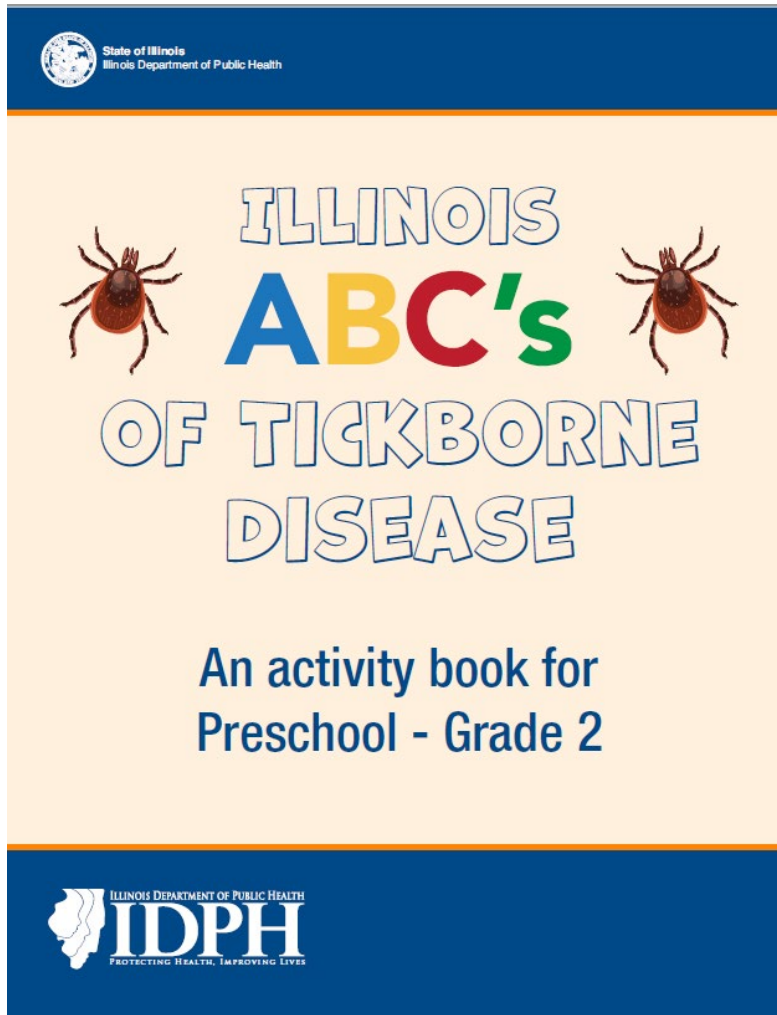
- Rash
- Headache
- Fever
- Muscle pain
- Fatigue
- Joint swelling and pain

Treatment for tickborne diseases should be based on symptoms, history of exposure to ticks, and in some cases, blood test results. Most tickborne diseases can be treated with a short course of antibiotics.

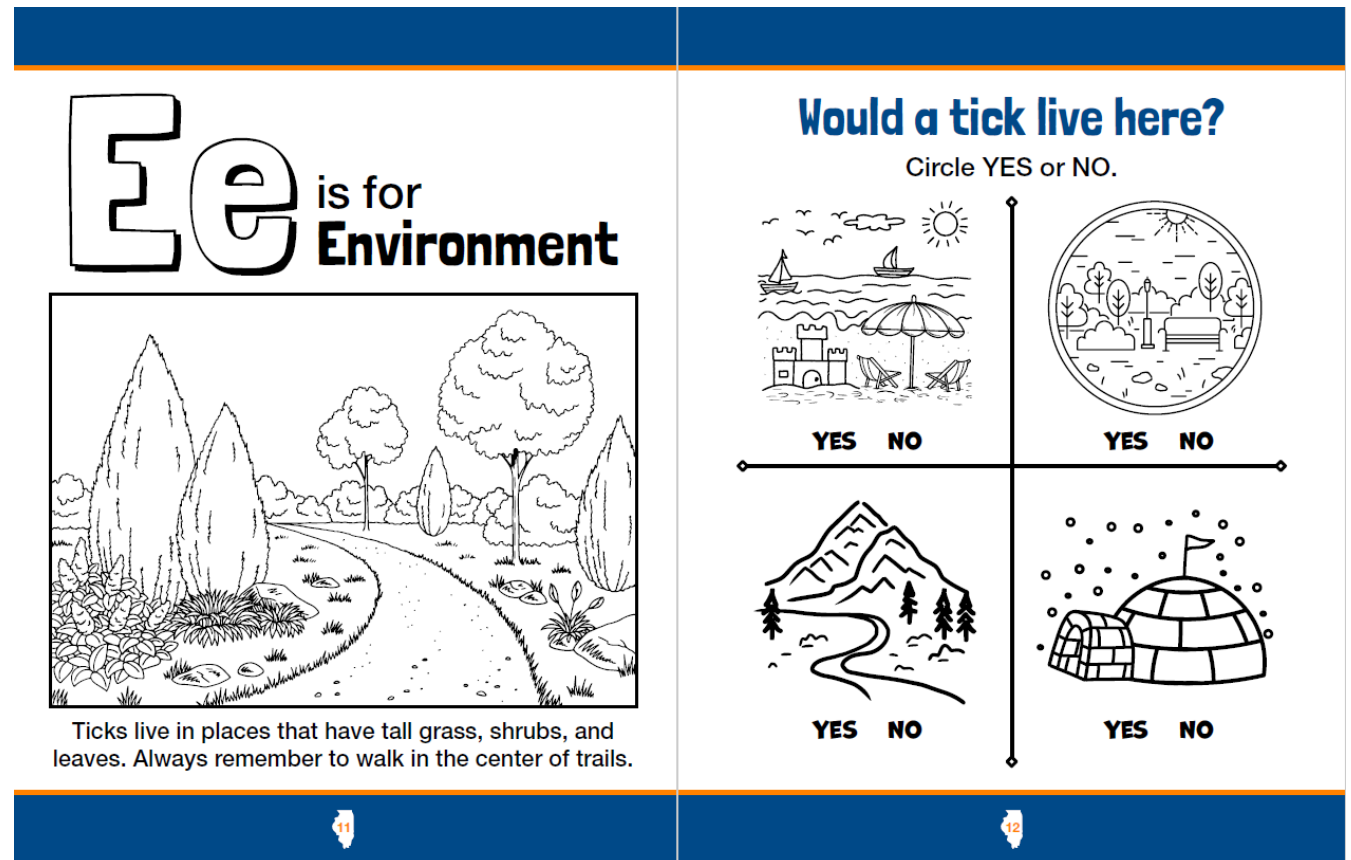
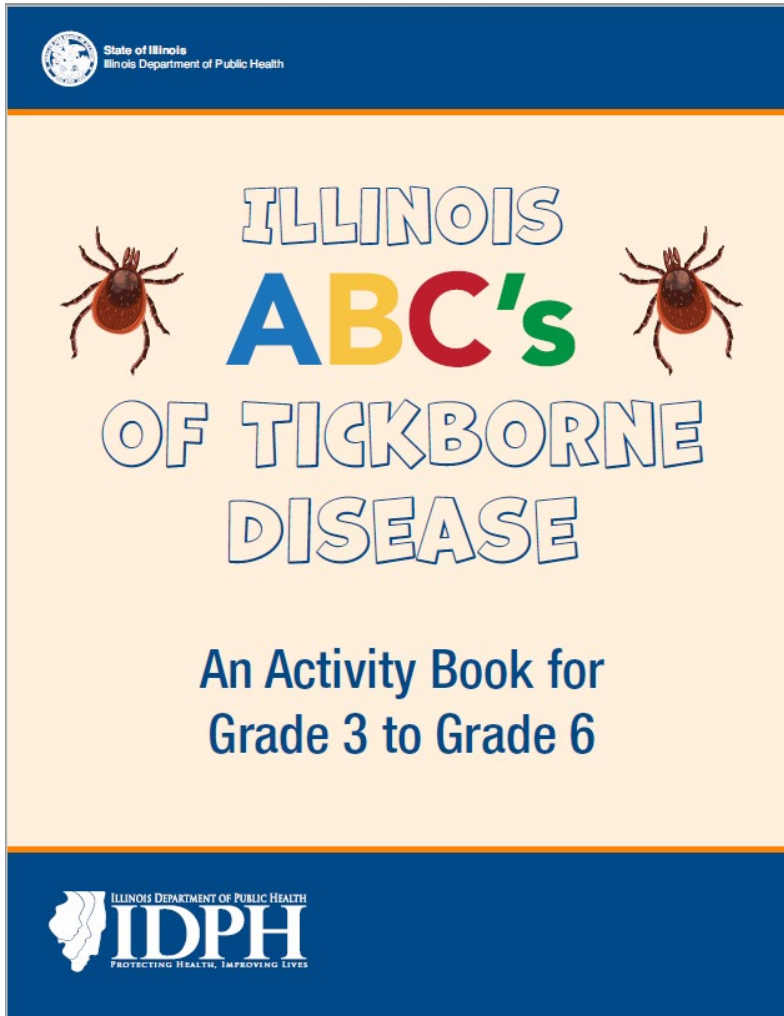
**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**IDPH**  
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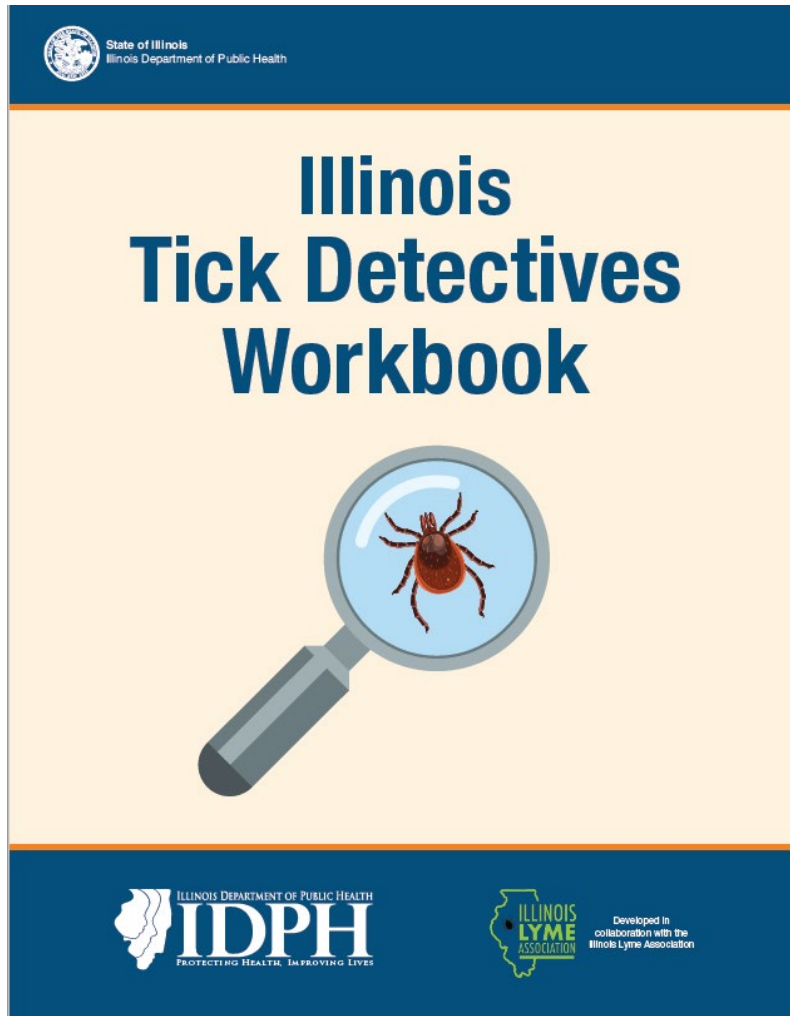
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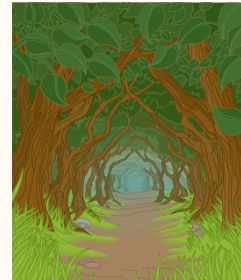


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### Find The Tick Habitats

Circle the places where ticks might live in the pictures below.



### How Do I Protect Myself From Ticks?

Year-round tick bite prevention is the best defense against Lyme disease.



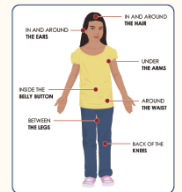
Have an adult help you put on **insect repellent** (bug spray) before you go outside. Have them find one that is registered by the U.S. EPA on this website: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/findrepellent-right-you>

Have an adult pre-treat your shoes and clothes with **permethrin**, a spray that lasts through many washes and can protect you for a long time. **Permethrin** kills ticks when used to treat shoes, clothes, and gear. It should not be put on the skin.



Stay in the middle of the trail in the woods and avoid tick-risky habitats (leaf piles, brush, wood piles).

Shower and check for ticks after being outside. This can help you get ticks off you before they have time to attach and eat. Be sure to have an adult help you check all the spots in the picture to the right.





# Illinois Tickborne Disease Dashboard: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>

## Tickborne Illnesses

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Babesiosis

Ehrlichiosis

Lyme Disease

Rocky Mountain Spotted  
Fever

Tularemia

Common Ticks

Tick Surveillance Map

Vector Control & Surveillance

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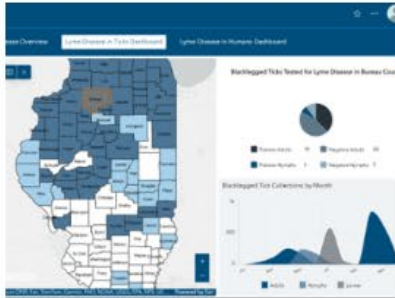


## Lyme Disease


Select an image to the right for more information on Lyme Disease.



1 Lyme Disease Overview



2 Lyme Disease in Ticks Dashboard



3 Lyme Disease in Humans Dashboard

Heartland Virus

Alpha-gal Syndrome

Longhorned Tick



### Late Symptoms (2-6 Months)

Late-stage Lyme disease usually affects the musculoskeletal system. **Lyme arthritis** occurs with severe joint pain and swelling in large joints, such as knees.

## Treatment of Lyme Disease

People treated with appropriate antibiotics in the early stages of Lyme disease usually recover rapidly and completely. The antibiotics most commonly used to treat Lyme disease include doxycycline, amoxicillin, or cefuroxime axetil. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated with 10 to 14 days of antibiotics. Early diagnosis and proper antibiotic treatment of Lyme disease can help prevent more severe disease.

Some patients report **prolonged symptoms** of pain, fatigue, or difficulty thinking even after treatment for Lyme disease. The state of the science relating to prolonged symptoms associated with Lyme disease is limited, emerging, and ongoing. Additional **research** is needed to better understand how to treat, manage, and support people with prolonged symptoms associated with Lyme disease.

## Resources

### Lyme disease rashes can be difficult to see



Call your **health clinic** if you have a similar rash. Other symptoms can include:



### Children and Lyme disease



**Reasons to suspect that your child might have Lyme disease:**

- You live in or have recently visited an area where Lyme disease is common.
- You recently found a tick on your child (although these very small ticks can go unnoticed).
- Your child has rash, fever, chills, exhaustion, joint swelling, muscle pain, new heart palpitations, or drooping on one or both sides of the face.

**Related Issue of Lyme Disease: Lyme Disease, PDF**



If you suspect that your child might have Lyme disease, please see his or her healthcare provider.

#### Diagnosing Lyme disease

Your child's healthcare provider may treat him or her for Lyme disease based on symptoms or may decide to run blood tests. Blood testing for Lyme disease is more accurate 4-6 weeks after the start of the illness than in the first days or weeks of illness.

#### Treating Lyme disease

People treated with antibiotics in the early stages of Lyme disease usually recover rapidly and completely.

Children who are diagnosed with Lyme disease should be treated with antibiotics promptly. A typical treatment course for children of all ages with early Lyme disease would be 10-21 days of doxycycline, amoxicillin, or cefuroxime.

Treating early in the course of disease is important to prevent rare complications of Lyme disease, such as joint, heart, or nerve problems.

### Los niños y la enfermedad de Lyme



**Razones para sospechar que su hijo podría tener la enfermedad de Lyme:**

- Ha estado recientemente o vive en un área donde la enfermedad de Lyme es común.
- Le encontraron recientemente una garrapata a su hijo (aunque estas garrapatas muy pequeñas pueden pasar desapercibidas).
- Su hijo tiene fiebre, dolor, escalofríos, agotamiento, inflamación en las articulaciones, dolor muscular, mareos, náuseas, vómitos o la cara caída de uno o ambos lados.

**Cómo se transmite la enfermedad de Lyme: PDF**



Si sospecha que su hijo podría tener la enfermedad de Lyme, hable con su proveedor de atención médica.

**Cómo se diagnostica la enfermedad de Lyme**

Si el proveedor de atención médica de su hijo podría darle tratamiento para la enfermedad de Lyme basándose en los síntomas o decide hacer análisis de sangre. Los análisis de sangre para la enfermedad de Lyme son más precisos si se hacen 4-6 semanas después del inicio de la enfermedad que durante los primeros días.

#### Cómo se trata la enfermedad de Lyme

Las personas que reciben tratamiento con antibióticos en las primeras etapas de la enfermedad suelen recuperarse rápido y por completo.

Los niños que se diagnostica con la enfermedad de Lyme deben recibir tratamiento con antibióticos pronto. El curso del tratamiento típico para los niños de todas las edades con enfermedad de Lyme en etapa inicial sería de 10 a 21 días de doxiciclina, amoxicilina o cefuroxima. Es importante tratar la enfermedad en las primeras etapas para prevenir las complicaciones graves, como los problemas con las articulaciones, el corazón o los nervios.

### How to prevent tick bites



**Ticks can spread disease, including Lyme disease.**

#### Protect yourself:

- Use Insect repellent (EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane diol, or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions).
- Wear clothing treated with permethrin.
- Shower as soon as possible after spending time outdoors.
- Check for ticks daily. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair, and in the groin.

#### How to remove a tick

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the tick. Avoid twisting or jerking.
- Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.



#### Notes:

- Remove the tick as soon as possible to reduce your chances of getting an infection from the tick bite.
- Don't use nail polish, petroleum jelly, or a hot match to make the tick detach.
- If tick mouth parts remain in the skin, leave them alone. In most cases, they will fall out in a few days.

### Cómo prevenir las picaduras de garrapatas y la enfermedad de Lyme



**Las garrapatas pueden transmitir enfermedades, como la enfermedad de Lyme.**

#### Protégase:

- Use insect repellente (con registro en la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) que contiene DEET, picaridina, IR3535, aceite de eucalipto de limón, para mentano diol o 2-undecanona. Siempre siga las instrucciones del producto).
- Use ropa tratada con permetrina.
- Duchese lo más pronto posible después de pasar tiempo al aire libre.
- Revísese todos los días para ver si tiene garrapatas. Las garrapatas se pueden esconder en la axila, detrás de las rodillas, en el cuello y en la ingle.
- Presione los ganchos de la cabeza de la garrapata que quedan pegados en la piel, no los tire. En la mayoría de los casos se desprenderán en unos pocos días.

#### Cómo sacar una garrapata

- Use una pinceta de punta fina para agarrar la garrapata lo más cerca posible de la superficie de la piel.
- Hele hacia arriba con presión constante y presión que aumente por etapas. Extrae con cuidado la garrapata.
- Limpie el lugar de la picadura y sus manos con alcohol o con agua y jabón.



#### Notas:

- Saque la garrapata lo más pronto posible para disminuir las posibilidades de contraer una infección debido a la picadura.
- No use resaca de uñas, queratina ni un fósforo caliente para desprender la garrapata.
- Siempre de la boca de la garrapata que quedan pegados en la piel, no los tire. En la mayoría de los casos se desprenderán en unos pocos días.



Illinois Tickborne Disease Dashboard: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>

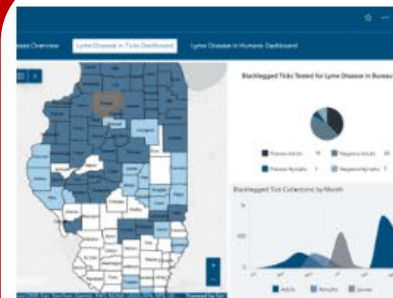


## Lyme Disease

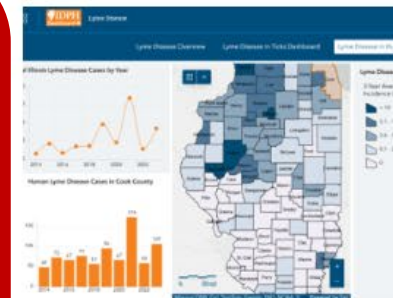
Select an image to the right for more information on Lyme Disease.



1 Lyme Disease Overview



2 Lyme Disease in Ticks Dashboard



3 Lyme Disease in Humans Dashboard



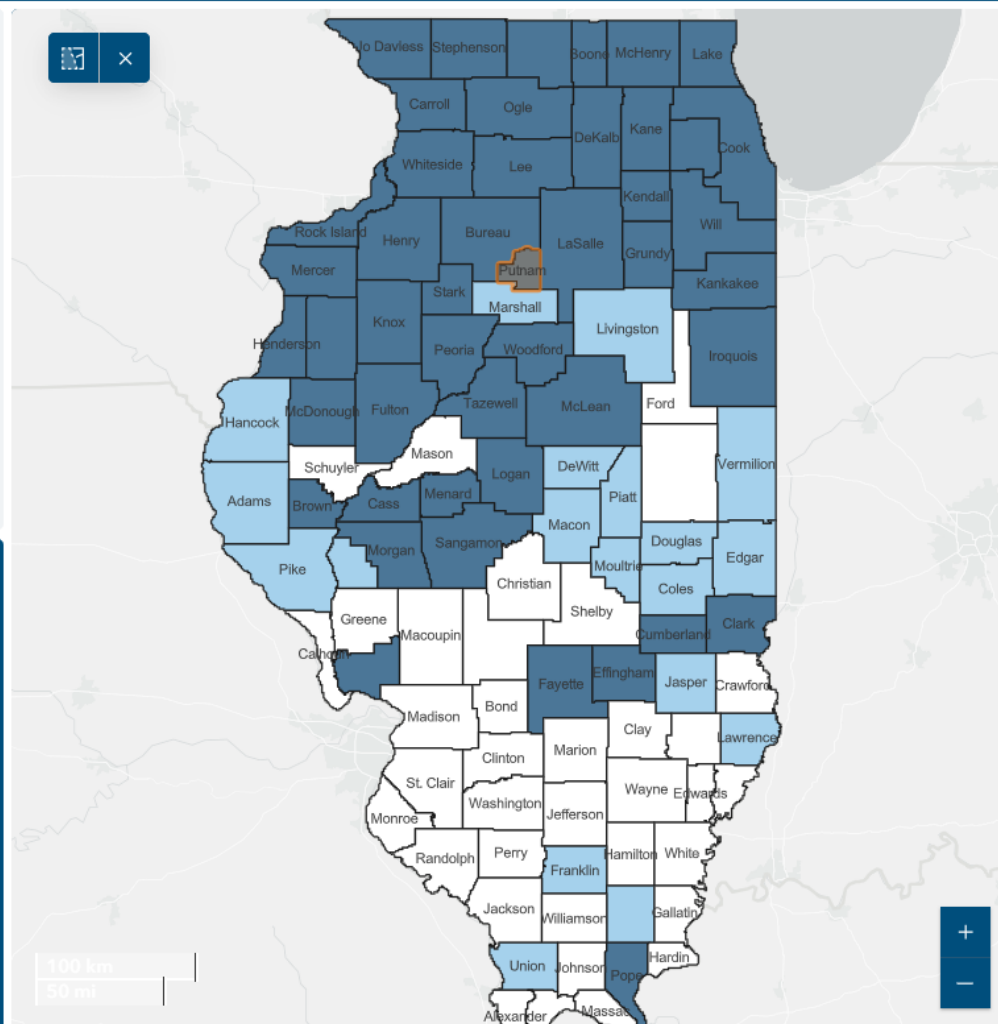
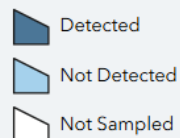


Lyme Disease Overview

Lyme Disease in Ticks Dashboard

Lyme Disease in Humans Dashboard

### Lyme Disease in Ticks



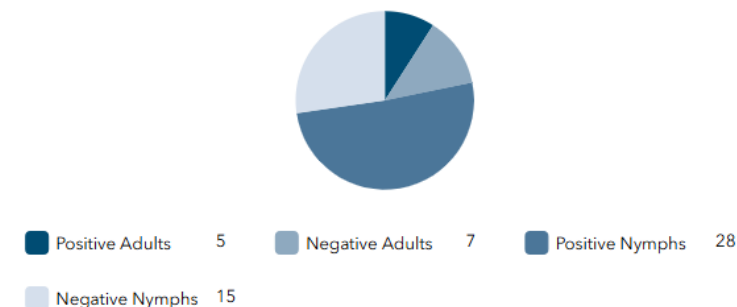
Missouri DNR, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS

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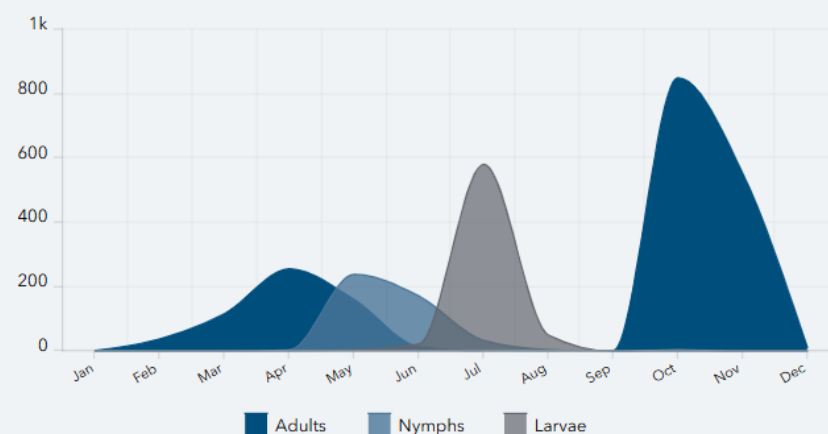
### Tick Surveillance in Putnam County

Blacklegged Tick Population Status	Established
Lyme Disease Status in Ticks	Detected
Number of Ticks Tested	56
Number of Ticks Positive	33

### Blacklegged Ticks Tested for Lyme Disease in Putnam County



### Blacklegged Tick Collections by Month



Illinois Tickborne Disease Dashboard: <https://dph.illinois.gov/ticks>

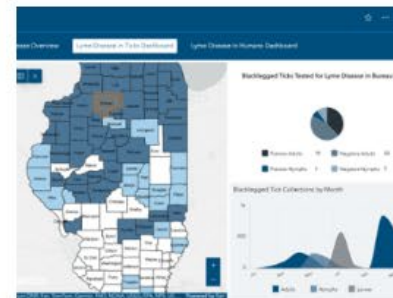


## Lyme Disease

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1 Lyme Disease Overview



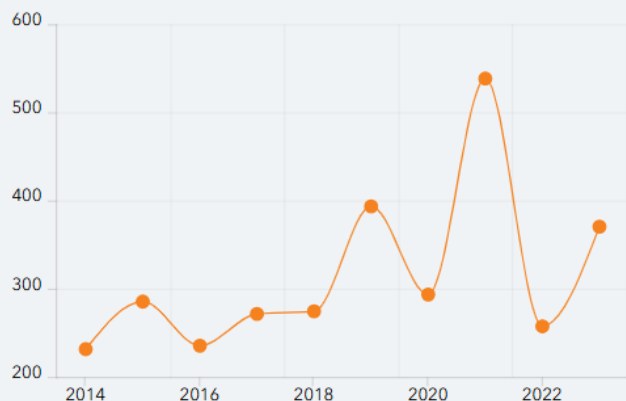
2 Lyme Disease in Ticks Dashboard



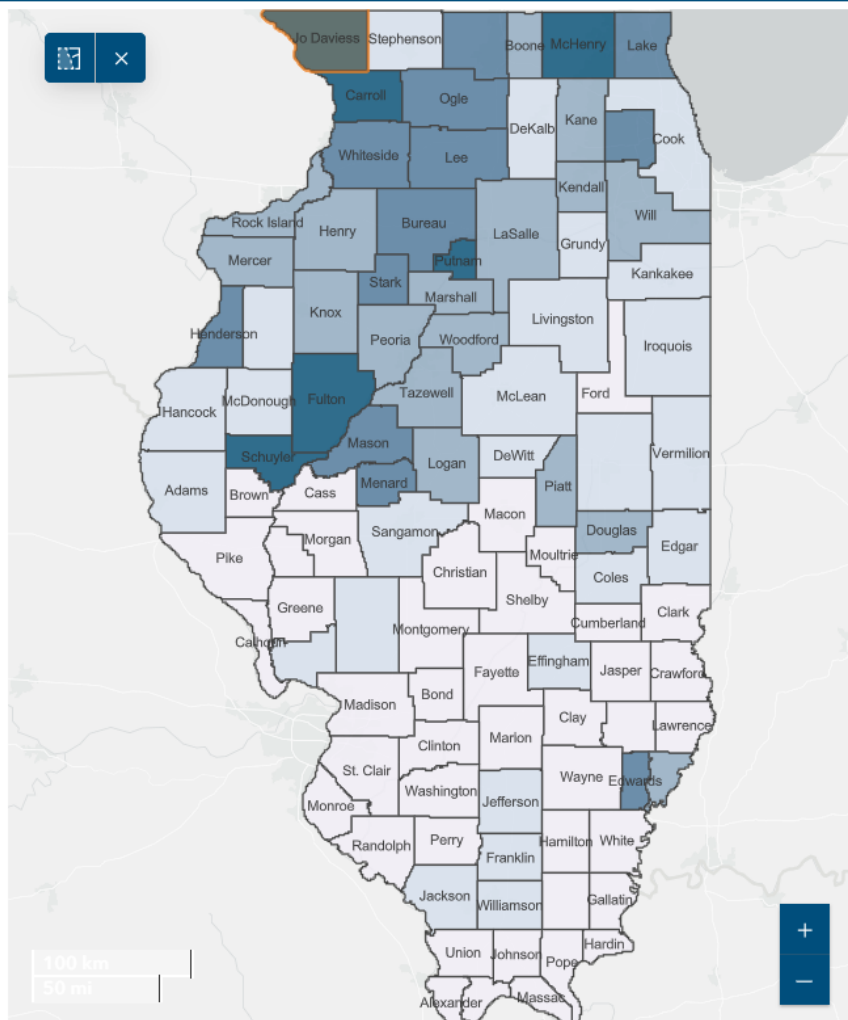
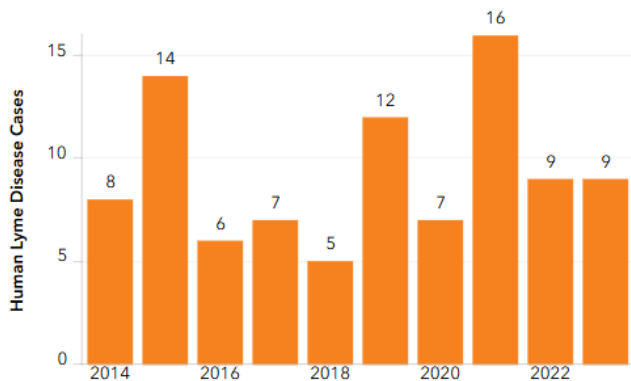
3 Lyme Disease in Humans Dashboard



### Total Illinois Lyme Disease Cases by Year



### Human Lyme Disease Cases in Jo Daviess County



### Jo Daviess County Lyme Disease Summary

Blacklegged Tick Population Status	Established
Lyme Disease in Ticks	Detected
Total Human Cases (2021-2023)	34
3-Year Average Human Incidence Rate (2021-2023)	51.43



### Want more information?

For more information including symptoms, disease transmission, and prevention strategies, click the image above.