

# Ticks

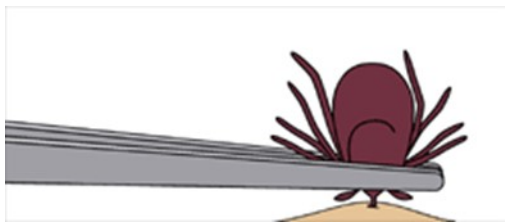


**Lorain County  
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

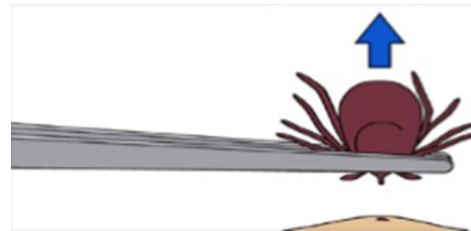
## What are ticks?

Ticks are spider-like bugs that can spread diseases such as Lyme Disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Ticks do not jump or fly. They sit on leaves or grass and attach themselves to humans or animals that brush up against them. Ticks are found outside during spring, summer, and fall. Tick bites can often be painless and can go unnoticed.



## How do I identify ticks?

Ticks can be as small as a grain of sand, or as large as an apple seed. If you find a tick, remove it as soon as possible. Lorain County Public Health can identify the kind of tick it is, but cannot test the tick for disease. Contact your healthcare provider particularly if you experience fever, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, a rash, or a bullseye pattern.



## How do I prevent ticks?

- Stay out of areas with tall grass and thick vegetation. Walk in the middle of trails.
- Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to find ticks. Tuck pants into socks or boots.
- Use bug repellent- follow instructions carefully.
- Check yourself, children, and pets for ticks after spending time outside.
- Bathe or shower after walking through ticks' habitat.
- Mow the yard and other places your dog or children play
- Check with your vet about tick control treatment for your dogs.

## How do I remove ticks?

To reduce chance of infection, remove ticks as soon as possible.

1. Use tweezers or shield your fingers. Never use bare hands.
2. Grab the tick as close to the skin as possible.
3. With steady pressure, pull straight out to remove the entire tick
4. Thoroughly disinfect the site and wash hands with hot soapy water.

Never jerk or twist the tick. Do not crush or puncture the tick. Never use a hot match or cigarette on the tick.

**Lorain County Public Health**

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