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Contact:

Savannah Bergman, BS
Chemist-Microbiologist II
715-839-2870

Savannah.bergman@co.eau-claire.wi.us

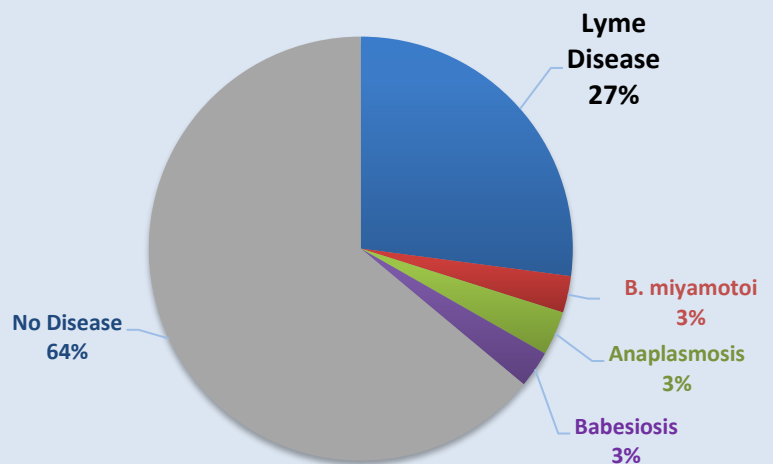
Local Study Finds More Than 1 in 3 Ticks Could Spread Illness

Eau Claire, WI, April 9th, 2021 – Eau Claire County is home to three different ticks: deer ticks, wood ticks, and the lone star ticks. The Eau Claire City-County Health Department sent deer ticks collected in 2019 to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to evaluate the presence of tickborne diseases present in our community. The deer ticks were collected from 2 rural parks in our community, Keller Park in Fall Creek and Coon Fork Park in Augusta. The results from this study showed that more than 1 in 3 ticks have the possibility of spreading illness to people, with Lyme Disease being the most common.

In 2020, there were 34 reported cases of Lyme disease in Eau Claire County. The actual number of cases is probably much higher, since many cases go unreported.

“With the warming spring weather ticks become more active, this study shows the importance of taking steps for insect bite prevention, like using an insect repellent to protect yourself and your family against ticks. If you find a tick attached to your skin, the most important thing to do is remove the tick as soon as possible to decrease your risk of contracting any possible tickborne disease,” says Savannah Bergman, Chemist-Microbiologist.

CDC study results from ticks collected at Keller Park in Fall Creek and Coon Fork Park in Augusta



CDC, 2020

How to prevent tick bites:

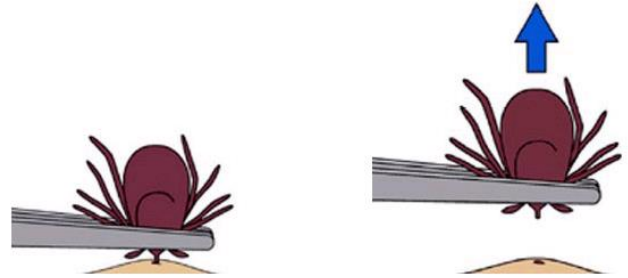
- Use repellents with **20-30% DEET** (or an alternative active ingredient) on exposed skin and clothing.
- Permethrin is effective against tick bites. It lasts for days to weeks on your clothing. Do **NOT** apply on skin.
- **ALWAYS** help children apply repellents. Apply according to the labeled instructions.
- **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 ticks.ehealthdepartment.org or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>.

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