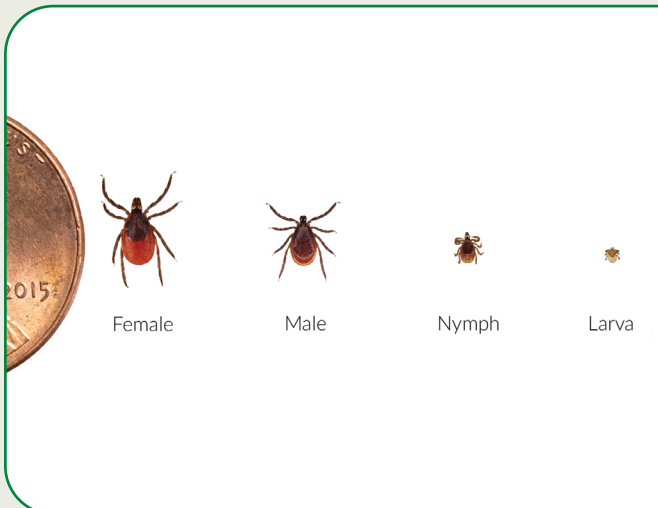


Deer Tick

Ixodes scapularis



The Deer tick, also commonly known as the Blacklegged tick, is found statewide and is the most common tick collected in the Commonwealth. The Deer tick is the **ONLY** tick found in Pennsylvania that can transmit Lyme disease to people. Lyme positive ticks have been collected in every county in Pennsylvania.

- Deer ticks can vary in size depending on their life stage.
- Tick life cycle includes egg, larva, nymph, and adult.
- The nymph stage is most associated with transmitting disease due its small size.
- In addition to Lyme disease, Deer ticks can transmit Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Deer Tick Virus, and Hard Tick Relapsing Fever. The Deer tick has also been implicated in the Alpha-gal syndrome meat allergy.



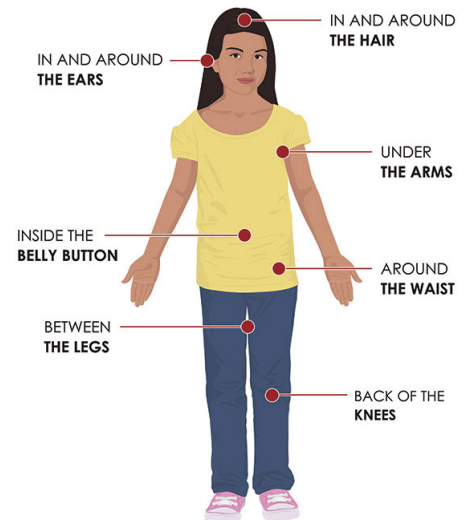
Nymphal Deer ticks are approximately the size of a poppy seed.

- Lyme disease is an illness caused by a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*.
- Symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches, and a bulls-eye rash (occurs in approximately 70%-80% of individuals). The appearance of the rash can vary widely.
- Typically, a tick must be attached for 24-48 hours for the Lyme disease bacteria to be transmitted. Prompt detection and removal can reduce the likelihood of getting Lyme disease.

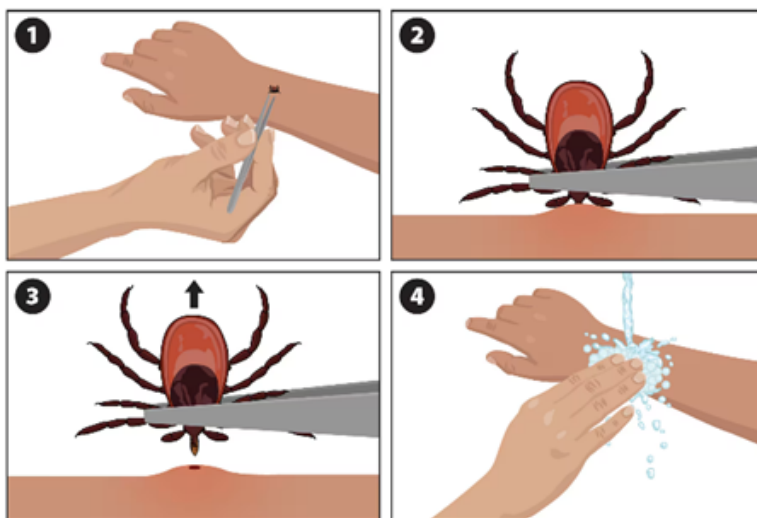


TICK PREVENTION

- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Use EPA registered repellents.
- Wear light colored long pants/sleeves while outdoors; tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.
- Conduct frequent tick checks while spending time outdoors and again after returning home.
- Place clothes into dryer for at least 10 minutes on high heat to kill any ticks that may remain on your clothes.
- Take a shower after returning home from enjoying the outdoors. Showering helps to remove loose ticks that have not attached.



TICK REMOVAL



- Use fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin's surface.
- Pull straight up with steady and even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick.
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with soap and water.
- Do not burn or apply solutions like Vaseline, nail polish, essential oils, etc., or wait for the tick to drop off itself. Prompt and appropriate removal of the tick will reduce the likelihood of pathogen transmission.



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