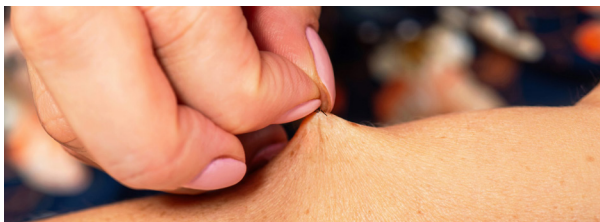
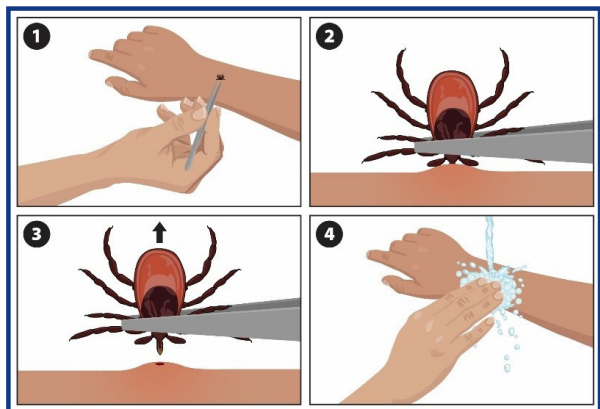


Tick Removal

- Use fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin's surface. If tweezers are not available, you may use your fingers to remove the tick. Take care not to squeeze the body of the tick, as it may force infected fluid into the skin.



- 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 petroleum jelly, nail polish, essential oils, etc., or wait for the tick to drop off by itself. Prompt and appropriate removal of the tick will reduce the likelihood of getting sick.
- Monitor for symptoms.



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.
- Check yourself and pets after being outside in tick habitat, put clothes into dryer for at least 10 minutes, and take a shower.



In Summary:

- Some ticks found in Pennsylvania can make you sick.
- It's important to take precautions when entering tick habitat.
 - Stay to the middle of trails.
 - Wear an EPA-approved repellent.
 - Wear long pants and sleeves, and tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.
- Remove any attached ticks immediately, and monitor for symptoms.



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dep.pa.gov/ticks



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

Tick Surveillance and Testing Program

Program Overview

DEP's Tick Surveillance and Testing Program collects ticks for testing in every Pennsylvania county. The purpose of these tick collections is to determine where and when ticks are active in the state and to establish the risk of tick-borne illness to the citizens of Pennsylvania. On average, **22,000** ticks are collected annually.

Due to their ability to transmit Lyme Disease and other illnesses, the program focuses mainly on the Blacklegged (Deer) tick, *Ixodes scapularis*.

Grants are provided to counties to conduct tick surveys from April through August. All Blacklegged (Deer) ticks are collected in the field, sent to the lab for identification, and processed for testing of disease.

Reduce ticks in the yard

- Avoid areas with forest, bushes, and tall grass around the perimeter of your property. Use control products labeled for ticks around the edge of your property.
- Remove tall grasses and brush around your home and at the edge of lawns. Mow the lawn frequently, and remove leaf litter to eliminate rodent habitat.
- Keeping your yard tidy will help prevent rodents and wild animals from carrying ticks into your yard.
 - Trash, old furniture, and other debris can provide a home to small animals.
 - Place bird feeders and woodpiles away from your home to also reduce wildlife traffic.

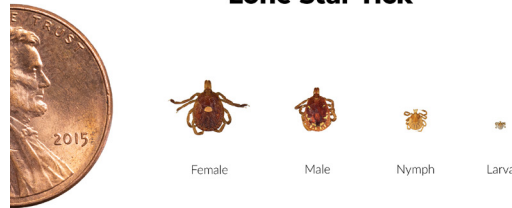
Life Cycle

Ticks have four life-stages that include egg, larva, nymph, and adult. After hatching from the egg, each life-stage must take a blood meal to survive.



Common Ticks In Pennsylvania

Lone Star Tick



Lone Star ticks can transmit ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Heartland virus, Bourbon virus, and Alpha-gal syndrome (allergy to mammal meat, dairy and related products).

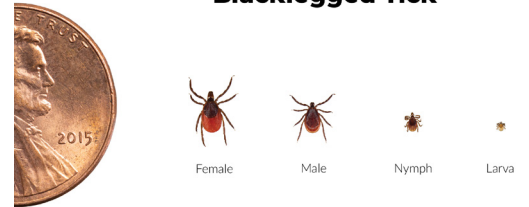
Longhorned Tick



The Longhorned tick is a newly established tick in Pennsylvania. This tick has not been shown to spread disease to humans in the United States.

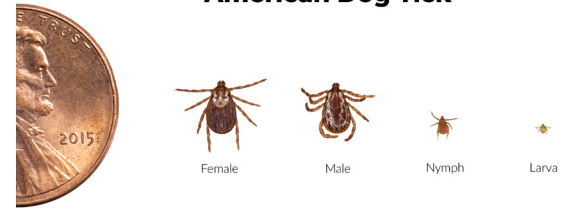
Common Ticks In Pennsylvania

Blacklegged Tick



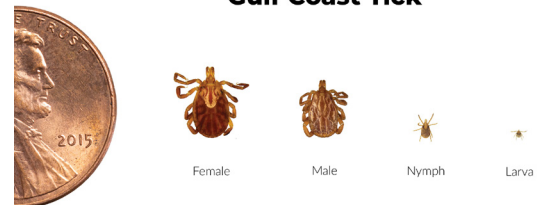
The Blacklegged (Deer) tick is the only tick in PA that can transmit Lyme Disease. This tick can also spread anaplasmosis, babesiosis, hard tick relapsing fever, and Powassan virus.

American Dog Tick



The American Dog tick can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

Gulf Coast Tick



The Gulf Coast tick can transmit *Rickettsia parkeri*.