

Michigan's Five Most Common Ticks

Ticks are significant vectors (carriers) of pathogens that cause human and animal disease. In Michigan, tick-borne diseases are rare, but they do occur and can be serious if not properly diagnosed and treated.



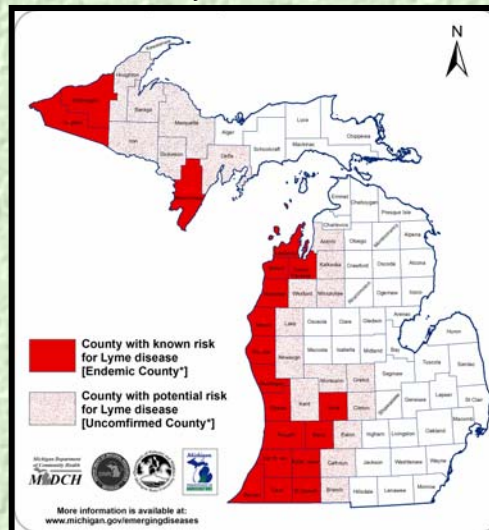
American Dog tick *Dermacentor variabilis*

The American Dog tick is by far the most common tick found in Michigan. It is active from early May-November. It will readily bite humans and our companion animals. This species is the vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia, and is easily distinguished by its ornate scutum.



Black-legged tick *Ixodes scapularis*

Emerging as a serious public health concern in Michigan, the Black-legged tick is the vector of Lyme disease, granulocytic anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. This tick readily quests for hosts in the low vegetation of forests with abundant small mammals and white-tailed deer; accumulating along human and game trails. See the map below for the currently known distribution.



Lone Star tick *Amblyomma americanum*

Known by its distinctive "Lone Star" marking, this tick is becoming more prevalent in Michigan. It will readily bite people and our companion animals, and is the vector of monocytic ehrlichiosis and tularemia. This tick is common in wooded areas with populations of white-tailed deer.

Woodchuck tick *Ixodes cookei*

Often confused with the Black-legged tick, *Ixodes cookei* is common in Michigan and will readily bite dogs and humans. People and pets will often come in contact near the dens of animals (skunks, woodchucks) in wooded environments. This species is the vector of Powassan encephalitis.



Brown Dog tick *Rhipicephalus sanuquineus*

Also known as the Kennel tick, this species is unique in its ability to survive and breed in indoor environments. It is the vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, canine babesiosis and canine ehrlichiosis. Hygienic practices in shelters/kennels can prevent infestations.

