



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2022

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Lone Star Tick Detected in Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO, MI — During a routine tick drag on May 20, 2022, a Lone Star Tick was identified in Kalamazoo County. These tick drags are being performed this summer by Environmental Health to capture and identify blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) which are known to transmit Lyme disease.

Lone Star Ticks (*Amblyomma americanum*) are a tick that has a distinctive white “Lone Star” marking on its back. This tick is typically located in the eastern, southeastern, and south-central portions of the United States but is known to occur in southern Michigan and has also been identified in the past few years in other counties throughout Michigan. It will readily bite people and animals and is a vector of human ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Heartland virus, Bourbon virus, and Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI). This tick is not known to be a vector of Lyme disease. This tick is also known to cause Alpha-Gal syndrome which is an allergic reaction associated with the consumption of red (mammalian) meat.

“Preventing tick bites is essential to preventing tick-borne disease, including using insect repellent with DEET and performing tick checks on yourself, children, and pets,” says Lucus Pols, Environmental Health Division Chief.

Environmental Health will continue to perform vector-disease surveillance in Kalamazoo County, including tick drags and mosquito trapping.

What You Can Do To Prevent Mosquito-Borne And Tick-Borne Diseases:

- Empty and wash all outdoor containers that collect water (small pools, feeding bowls, open rain collection barrels, buckets, birdbaths, etc.) at least once a week.
- Keep swimming pools properly treated to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.
- Keep trash containers properly covered.
- Use and repair screens on your home windows.
- Wear tall socks, pants and long sleeves when outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn.
- Use insect repellent with DEET and registered by the EPA on skin and treat clothing with permethrin to repel biting insects. Always follow label directions.

For more information on ticks, identification, and prevention, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>

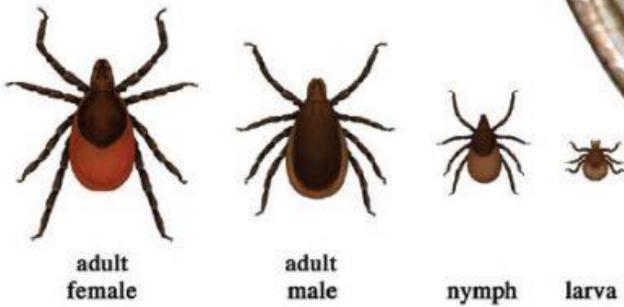
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Tick Identification:

Blacklegged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)



Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)



NOTE: Relative sizes of several ticks at different life stages.

Engorged female *Ixodes scapularis* tick. Color may vary.



Source: cdc.gov

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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