



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2022

Matt Johnson
Public Information Officer
pio@kalcountry.com

Kalamazoo County Receives 2021 Tick Results

KALAMAZOO, MI —The Environmental Health Division of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department has received results from blacklegged ticks submitted in 2021. The Environmental Health division submits blacklegged ticks in October of each year to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after collecting ticks during the months of highest activity. Collection consists of performing tick drags at various locations throughout Kalamazoo County. A total of 92 blacklegged ticks were submitted and tested for five disease-causing bacteria in 2021. Below is a summary of these results:

Bacteria Detected	Disease Caused	Number of Positive Ticks
Borrelia burgdorferi	Lyme Disease	21
Anaplasma phagocytophilum	Anaplasmosis	3

According to the CDC, Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States and typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a distinctive skin rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to the heart, nervous system, and joints. Symptoms of anaplasmosis include fever, chills, headache, and muscle aches. If left untreated, anaplasmosis can cause bleeding problems, respiratory failure, and organ failure.

“Citizens should be aware that mosquito and tick activity continues into the fall season, particularly until the first hard frost. Awareness of mosquito and tick bite prevention is essential to reducing vector-borne disease, including using insect repellent with DEET and performing tick checks on yourself, children, and pets,” says Lucus Pols, Environmental Health Division Chief.

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.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

311 East Alcott Street | Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 269.373.5200 | www.kalcountry.com/hcs

- 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 about mosquito and tick surveillance, visit www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh or call 269-373-5210.

###

Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

 [Like Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services](#)  Follow us [@KzooHealth](#)