

TICKBORNE DISEASES RISK IN WISCONSIN



There are many diseases that can be spread by ticks in Wisconsin. Anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Powassan virus infection, and Rocky mountain spotted fever are among the diseases that can be spread by ticks. Most tickborne diseases in Wisconsin are spread by the black-legged tick (also known as the deer tick). Preventing tick bites is the key to reducing your risk of tickborne disease.

Tickborne Diseases Risk

The risk of Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases in Wisconsin is increasing as the state is seeing more months of the year when ticks are active. Longer tick seasons increase the chance of someone coming into contact with a tick.

It is important to remember that ticks are present in all counties in Wisconsin. People living in any county in Wisconsin can contract Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases.

Follow the prevention tips below to reduce your chances of being bitten by a tick.

Average incidence of confirmed and probable Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis cases by county of residence, 2009-2018

Risk Level

(incidence per 100,000 population)



*Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis account for the majority of tickborne disease cases in Wisconsin.

Tick Bite Prevention

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM BITES. Wear insect repellent with 20% or more DEET. Wear a long-sleeve shirt and pants while outdoors.

AVOID TICK-HEAVY AREAS. Ticks like to live in tall bushes and other vegetation. When walking on trails, stay in the center and do not go off into the brush.

PERFORM DAILY TICK CHECKS. Check your entire body after being outside, even if you were only in your yard. Shower as soon as possible after coming in from the outdoors.

TUMBLE DRY CLOTHES AFTER BEING

OUTDOORS. Tumble dry your clothes on high heat for 10 minutes to kill any ticks that may have come in on your clothes.

PREVENT TICKS ON ANIMALS. Try to prevent pets from bringing ticks into your home by not allowing them in tick-infested areas, and by using veterinarian-prescribed tick collars or spot treatment.

BE ALERT FOR FEVER OR RASH. Even if you do not remember being bitten by a tick, a fever or rash may be the first sign of Lyme disease. Symptoms of tickborne diseases may include fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, and rash (not in all tickborne diseases). Contact your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms.

