

Michigan's Five Most Common Ticks

Ticks are significant carriers of pathogens that cause human and animal disease. Listed here is a ranked order of the ticks most likely to bite humans in Michigan.



1. American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

Distribution: Widespread throughout Michigan forests and grassy areas

Key Facts: These ticks are active from early May–November, and will bite both humans and companion animals.

Diseases: Diseases associated with the American dog tick are rare in Michigan, but may include [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#) and [tularemia](#).

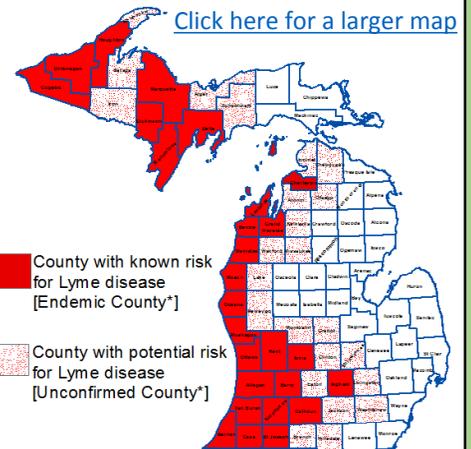


2. Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

Distribution: Emerging in Michigan, see map at right

Key Facts: Found on low forest vegetation, often along human and animal trails.

Diseases: [Lyme disease](#) is the most common tick-borne disease in Michigan. Other rare diseases include: [anaplasmosis](#), [babesiosis](#), [deer-tick virus](#), and [ehrlichiosis](#).



3. Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)

Distribution: Occasionally found in wooded and grassy areas across the state

Key Facts: An aggressive biter of humans and companion animals, adult females have distinctive “Lone Star” mark

Diseases: [Ehrlichiosis](#), [rocky mountain spotted fever](#), [tularemia](#)



4. Woodchuck tick (*Ixodes cookei*)

Distribution: Found most commonly on pets throughout Michigan

Key Facts: Usually found near dens of skunks and woodchucks, will bite companion animals near animal dens and occasionally humans

Diseases: [Powassan encephalitis](#)



5. Brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)

Distribution: Occasionally found in Michigan.

Key Facts: can uniquely survive and breed in indoor environments, has been associated with kennel, shelter, and breeding facilities. Good hygiene practices can prevent indoor infestations.

Diseases: [Rocky mountain spotted fever](#), [canine babesiosis](#), [canine ehrlichiosis](#)

Tick Bite and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention

- Use insect repellents containing no more than 30 percent DEET.
- Use repellents that contain permethrin on clothing.
- After spending time outdoors, check your skin and clothes for ticks.
- See your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches or fatigue.