



## TUSCOLA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

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### Tick awareness in Tuscola County

Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement would like to inform our residents of increasing tick encounters. Reports from our field technicians along with phone calls from residents has raised awareness and concerns.

Mosquito and tick season coincide. Unfortunately, our program does not target ticks, but there are steps residents can take to protect themselves from ticks and tick-borne diseases. MDHHS recommends the following:

#### **Avoid tick-infested areas.**

- Ticks live in grassy, brushy and wood areas.
- Walk in the center of the trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, brush and leaf litter at trail edges.
- Protect pets. Dogs and cats can come into contact with ticks outdoors and bring them into the home. Talk with your veterinarian about the best tick prevention products for your pet.

#### **Use insect repellent**

- Apply an EPA-registered repellent on exposed skin. Find a repellent product that is right for you.
- Treat clothes (especially pants, socks and shoes) with permethrin, which kills ticks on contact or buy clothes that are pre-treated. Do not use permethrin directly to skin.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying repellents.

#### **Perform daily tick checks.**

- Always check for ticks on yourself and your animals after being outdoors, including in your own wooded yard.
- Inspect all body surfaces carefully and remove attached ticks with tweezers.
- To remove ticks, grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick's body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with antiseptic.

**Bathe and Shower**

- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that might be crawling on you.
- Wash clothing in hot water and dry on high heat to kill ticks in clothing.

For more information on ticks, visit [Michigan.gov/Lyme](http://Michigan.gov/Lyme) or [CDC.gov/Lyme](http://CDC.gov/Lyme).

Residents are encouraged to call or email Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement and report increases in tick populations on their property. Provided information helps track particular areas that have the most activity. The information then may be passed on to MDHHS or the CDC.

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