

# Tick Identification and Testing in Michigan

Ticks may carry diseases that cause illness in humans and animals in Michigan. Therefore, if you find a tick feeding on a person or a domestic animal, you may want it:

- a) Identified to determine if there is a risk of tick-borne illness
- b) Screened for the presence of disease causing organisms

Michigan's five most common ticks can be [seen here](#). Not all ticks or tick species carry disease agents. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provides tick identification at no charge to Michigan citizens. Ticks that are submitted from people that are identified as blacklegged ticks (formerly deer tick) and are alive\* will be forwarded to the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories for Lyme disease screening at no cost. Ticks that are dead when they are received or are from animals (dog, cat, horse, etc.) will not be tested. Ticks may also be identified electronically by submitting photos. For more information click [here](#).

For more information about ticks and tick-borne diseases, see our "[Ticks and Your Health](#)" brochure.

## Tick Submission Kit (Recommended):

As part of an effort to streamline public tick submission and testing, we have developed a kit for submitting ticks to the MDHHS. The kit consists of a screw cap plastic vial, a self-addressed, padded return envelope, a submission form, instructions for submission, and the Ticks and Your Health brochure.

The kit is available **at no charge** and can be obtained at your [local health department](#). Alternatively, kits may be ordered via the [Communicable Disease Division's publication order form](#).



## For prompt tick submission without using the Michigan Tick Submission Kit:

- If the tick is alive\*, place it in a small container with a few pieces of fresh grass, or a small piece of paper towel moistened with a drop of water.
- If the tick is dead, place it in a small container like an old medication bottle.
- Print and complete the [Tick Identification and Testing Form](#).
- Send the container with the tick along with the submission form in a padded envelope to the below address:  
**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
EZID Section  
333 S. Grand Ave., 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 30195  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7695**
- On the outside of the envelope write "FRAGILE" or "HANDLE WITH CARE" to help prevent damage to the tick when shipped.

\* The MDHHS cannot guarantee that ticks sent live through the mail will survive.