

Tick Identification in Michigan

In Michigan, there are several kinds of ticks that bite people and pets, and some carry harmful bacteria, viruses, or parasites. Not all tick bites will make you sick, but tick-borne diseases do occur in Michigan, and can be serious if not properly treated. Therefore, if you find a tick feeding on a person or pet, you may want it identified to determine potential diseases of concern. Tell your doctor if you are ill and have had a tick bite or been in an area with ticks. Knowing what kind of tick bit you may help your doctor decide how to treat your illness.

Michigan's five most common ticks can be [seen here](#). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provides tick identification at no charge to Michigan citizens. **Beginning April 1, 2020, ticks submitted for identification through this program will not be tested for the presence of disease agents.** This is because 1) even if a tick contains a disease agent, it does not mean you were infected by that agent and 2) negative results can be misleading because you may have been bitten by a tick you didn't notice. ***The results of any pathogen testing in ticks should not guide disease diagnoses and treatment.*** Talk with your healthcare provider if you have additional questions, or if you develop flu-like symptoms/rash within 30 days of a tick bite or visiting an area with ticks.

Please be aware that results may be delayed as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. For quicker identification results, ticks may also be identified electronically by submitting photos. For more information click [here](#).

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

Tick Submission Kit (Recommended):

To streamline tick submission and identification, we 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:

1. No matter if the tick is dead or alive, place it in a small sealable container (e.g., old pill bottle) by itself
2. Print and complete the [Tick Identification Form](#).
3. Send the container with the tick along with the identification form in a padded envelope to the address below:
**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
EZID Section
333 S Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
PO Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48933**
4. On the outside of the envelope write "FRAGILE" or "HANDLE WITH CARE" to help prevent damage to the package when shipped.