

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Communicable Disease

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Environmental Health

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Resource Recovery

(269) 673-5415

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer is Here, and So is Tick and Mosquito Season

(Allegan, MI)— Summertime is peak tick and mosquito season in Michigan, and Allegan County is no exception. Last year in Allegan County, both dog ticks and black-legged ticks were found, plus twenty species of mosquitos. With the warmer weather upon us, the Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) encourages residents to take action in preventing vector-borne illnesses (diseases caused by ticks and mosquitoes) when exploring the outdoors. These include diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Lyme Disease, and West Nile Virus (WNV). Mosquitoes and ticks may pose a health risk to humans until the first hard frost of the season. Prevention is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

Tick bites can be prevented by:

- Avoiding tick-infested areas and clearing high grass, brush, and leaf litter around your home.
- Using DEET-containing insect repellents (Do not use on children under 2 months of age).
- Wearing light-colored, long-sleeved shirts, long-legged pants, closed-toe shoes, and spraying clothes with repellent containing permethrin.
- Performing daily tick checks.
- Checking pets for ticks when they have been outside.

- Putting your clothes in the dryer on high heat for 60 minutes to kill any remaining ticks.

Mosquito bites can be prevented by:

- Using insect repellents. For children, apply products with less than 30 percent DEET.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long-legged pants, and spraying clothes with a repellent that contains permethrin.
- Emptying standing water from around your home regularly. Standing water can be found in flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires, and birdbaths.
- Installing or repairing screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside. Use air conditioning if possible.

Learn more on emerging diseases at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases. Learn more on [instructions for tick removal \(https://bit.ly/3yicQkl\)](https://bit.ly/3yicQkl). If you have had a tick attached for 24 hours or more, identify the tick and then consult with your medical care provider. To submit a tick for testing and identification contact the ACHD at (269) 686-4551. Learn more about ACHD services at www.allegancounty.org/health. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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