

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.

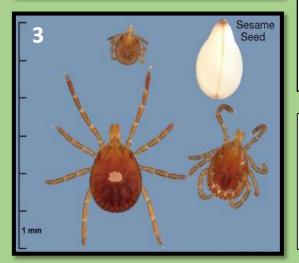


2. Blacklegged tick (Ixodes scapularis)

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 (Rhipecephalus 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.