



Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Tick Borne Diseases in Illinois

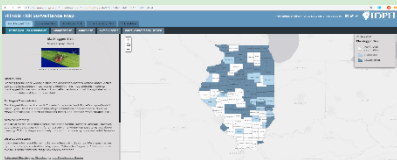
March 17, 2021

Additional Resources



[Illinois Lyme Association \(ILA\) website](https://www.illinoislyme.org/) has a **Provider page with up-to-date studies for reference.**

Additional Information



All data cited is from the **Illinois Department of Public Health Tick Surveillance Map.**

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=976061db733441eb977ef5cf2facd5c4>

Blacklegged—Deer Ticks



- Widely distributed;
- White footed mouse important carrier;
- Transmits most pathogens;
- Can be found on days with above freezing temps

It Is More Than Just Lyme



The CDC continues to report annual increases in Lyme disease infections. The ILA understands the importance of making health care providers aware of the latest trends in tickborne disease in Illinois to help facilitate early diagnosis and treatment that are critical for improving patient outcomes. The Illinois Department of Public Health has initiated tick surveillance that can help inform providers regarding the prevalence of tick-borne disease in the state. The ILA wants you to be aware of these findings. Many of these pathogens are transmitted quickly and do not require 24-36 hours of tick attachment. **On many of the listed pathogens, the CDC states: CONFIRMATION OF THE DIAGNOSIS IS BASED ON LABORATORY TESTING, BUT ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED IN A PATIENT WITH A SUGGESTIVE CLINICAL PRESENTATION.**

Lyme Disease

Of Blacklegged ticks tested:

39% are positive with *B. burgdorferi*.

- Moving south from WI and Northern IL

Highest Infection Rates:

Winnebago - 71%;
 Jo Daviess - 63%; Lake & Warren - 50%;
 Carroll, DuPage, Kendall & Putnam - >40%;



Borrelia miyamotoi

Same symptoms as Lyme disease, rash is rare.

- Found to date in 7 counties;
- 3-6% of ticks collected are infected;
- Accurate testing for multiple TBRF species is largely lacking, treatment recommended on suspicion over lab;
- If left untreated, cardiac, neurologic and arthritic problems can occur;
- Ticks transfer pathogens to 1000's of larva prior to birth, drastically increasing possible vectors .

Anaplasmosis

- **May also be associated with blood product transfusions (CDC);**
- Symptoms list: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/anaplasmosis.html>
- Found to date in 9 counties:
Highest Infection Rates: Lee - 12%; Lake - 11%; Winnebago - 9% .

Lone Star Tick



- Very aggressive;
- Will chase a heat source;
- Tiny in size.

Tick Size



Can be as small as a period at the end of a sentence.

Gulf Coast Tick



- Invasion—Found in 14 counties;
- Can stand stronger sun
- Found in fields & prairies

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Rickettsia amblyommatis

Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis

Highest Infection Rates:

- Williamson - 47%;
- Union & Jackson - 40%;
- Johnson, Pope, Saline & Lawrence - >30%;
- McDonough - 88% with small number of ticks collected.

Heartland Virus

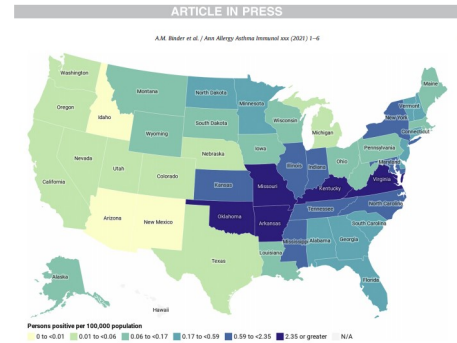
- Detected to date in 2 counties;
(Kankakee and Williamson)
- Can be deadly.

Alpha Gal Allergy

Anaphylactic allergy to red meat

- Illinois - Top 10 for cases;
- Likely transmitted by Lone Star Tick;
- Gastrointestinal symptoms that progress;
- Delayed onset allergic reaction following ingestion of mammalian meat.

A.M. Binder et al. / Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol xxx (2021) 1-6



Ehrlichiosis

- Symptoms list: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/ehrlichiosis.html>
- Found to date in 9 counties with 4% of ticks infected

Highest Infection Rates:

- Massac - 19%;
- Alexander - 10%;
- Williamson - 7%.

Rickettsia parkeri rickettsiosis

Similar to Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever

- Eschar will be present at tick attachment site
- On average 17% of ticks collected from southern Illinois infected
- Moving north from southern Illinois

Highest Infection Rates:

- Massac - 35%;
- Saline - 19%;
- Hardin - 4%;
- Champaign, Jefferson & Johnson - 50% with small number of ticks collected.