







## REMOVAL OF TICKS

-  Crawling ticks can be easily removed by hand. They will not bite.
-  Attached ticks may be removed with fingers shielded by a paper towel or tissue or grasping firmly with tweezers crosswise as close to the joint of attachment as possible. Pull the tick steadily outward without twisting or jerking so that the mouth parts, which are imbedded in the skin, do not break off.
-  If the mouth parts of the tick do break off, consult your physician.
-  Do not kill the tick while it is still attached to the skin. Dispose of tick by dropping into alcohol or flushing down toilet.
-  Apply antiseptic to the site of the bite.
-  Be alert for any symptoms which may appear after the bite (usually 2 to 12 days). Symptoms may include: expanding red ring around bite; fever and headache followed by a generalized skin rash; chills, sore at site of bite; swollen, painful lymph nodes. If any of these or other symptoms occur, consult your physician immediately.



**LONG ISLAND STATE PARK HEADQUARTERS**

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# WARNING!

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Actual Size

## Avoid Ticks!!

**For further information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Office, County Health Department, New York State Department of Health or your local State Park Manager.**

# BEWARE OF TICKS

Ticks are commonly found on shrubs and medium to tall grasses in overgrown fields, woodlands, and in the dunes along the seashore.

## AMERICAN DOG TICK: 4 - 6 mm long

Adult Female: Dark reddish brown with a crescent shaped, light colored plate near the front of the body.

Adult Male: Entire dorsal surface is covered by a plate that is mottled in appearance.



## BLACK LEGGED TICK (DEER TICK): 1 - 2 mm long

Adult Female: Reddish body with dark brown legs, dorsal plate and mouth parts.

Adult Male: Primarily dark brown.



## LONE STAR TICK: 4 mm long

Adult Female: Round, brownish red, body characterized by a white spot on back.

Adult Male: Oval, brownish red, body characterized by horseshoe shape pattern on lower back.



# AVOID TICKS

Not all ticks harbor disease, but ticks may carry microorganisms which can cause serious illnesses including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme Disease, Tularemia, Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis. If a tick is found crawling on you, this does not mean you will contract a disease.

Ticks do NOT jump or fly, they climb on grasses and low vegetation. When a person or animal brushes against the plant, the tick transfers from the plant to the person or animal.

## PREVENTION IS KEY!

- Following directions apply insect repellent, particularly to clothing from the waist down.
- Stick to the center of trails where possible to avoid brushing against plants.
- Light colored clothes make it easier to spot ticks.
- Tuck pants into boots or socks and shirt into pants. Keep long hair tied back.
- Check clothing constantly while working or walking in areas inhabited by ticks. Check exposed body areas and clothes again after leaving the area and unexposed areas before retiring at night.
- Ticks usually crawl on clothing in an upward direction until they find a site on the skin for attachment. Common places for tick attachment to the skin are the back of the neck, the scalp, behind the knees, arm pits, and groin area.

**Caution:** You are at risk during any season of the year.