



## Breakwater Tick Information 2017

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### **For Parents:**

Prevention of tick born illness includes wearing protective clothing such as light colored pants tucked into socks or boots, use of insect repellent applied in the morning prior to school (unlike sunblock, insect repellent does not need to be reapplied again during school hours and is a health hazard if applied too often- check the label for specifications), use of caution in tick infested areas i.e. stay on the trail, and make a routine of performing daily tick checks.

### **For Staff:**

If a tick is found embedded in a student, the front office staff should remove the tick using tweezers or a tick spoon. The tick should be saved if possible for identification. Teachers should be well informed on the identification of deer ticks and are encouraged to carry a tick ID card with them on field trips. Removed ticks placed in safe containers may be given to the parents. The estimated time that the tick became imbedded to the time it was removed should be recorded.

Info to share with parents and the child's health provider:

1. Date/ time of visualization of embedded tick.
2. Identification of tick species if known.
3. Estimated time the tick was embedded in the child.
4. If the entire tick was unable to be removed.

If an unidentified rash is detected at school this should be reported to parents at the end of the day. If the rash covers a large area and/ or is accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever, nausea, extreme itching or pain the student should be sent home with the recommendation to see a health care provider.

Known cases of Lyme disease should be reported to school nurse for CDC tracking. Lyme disease is a reportable disease, as are some other tick born infections.

### **Resources:**

Tick removal: [https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing\\_a\\_tick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html)

Repellant resource: <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you>

Symptoms of tick born illness: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/symptoms.html>

Local Info: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/lyme/index.shtml>

*Created Spring 2017*

