



## TOWN OF MONROE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# Tick-borne Diseases

## TickEncounter



Larva



Nymph

## Blacklegged Tick or Deer Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



Adult Male



Adult Female

Tick season usually begins in April and ends in September. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals, so spending time outside camping, gardening, or hunting will bring you in close contact with ticks.

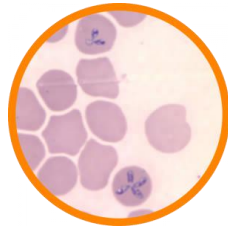
Knowledge and prevention is key when it comes to tick-associated diseases. Learn about common illnesses associated with ticks.

***Each tick-borne disease has its own test and may have a different treatment protocol. If you have been bit by a tick, submit it for testing and contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible.***

## Babesiosis

### What is babesiosis?

Babesiosis is a malaria-like disease caused by microscopic parasites that infect red blood cells.



### How do people get infected with

***Babesia***? The main way is through the bite of an infected tick, specifically blacklegged ticks or deer ticks.

- The parasite typically is spread by the young nymph stage of the tick. Nymphs are mostly found during warm months (spring and summer) in areas with woods, brush, or grass.

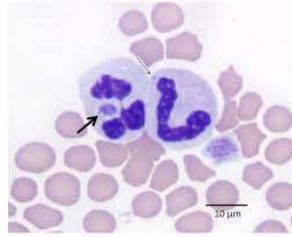
### What are the symptoms and signs of *Babesiosis*?

- Many people who are infected with *Babesia microti* feel fine and do not have any symptoms.
- Some people develop flu-like symptoms, such as
  - Fever
  - Drenching sweats
  - Muscle or joint aches or pains
  - Loss of appetite, nausea, or
  - Fatigue
- Because *Babesia* parasites infect red blood cells, babesiosis can cause hemolytic anemia (from the destruction of red blood cells).

## Anaplasmosis

### What is anaplasmosis?

Anaplasmosis is a disease caused by the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*.



**How do people get infected with *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*?** These bacteria are spread to people by tick bites primarily from the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) and the western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*).

### What are the symptoms and signs of Anaplasmosis?

- Signs and symptoms of anaplasmosis typically begin within 1–2 weeks after the bite of an infected tick.
- Early signs and symptoms (days 1-5) are usually mild or moderate and may include:
  - Fever,
  - Chills
  - Severe headache
  - Muscle aches
  - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite

Signs and symptoms of severe (late stage) illness can include:

- Respiratory failure
- Bleeding problems
- Organ failure
- Death

Rarely, if treatment is delayed or if there are other medical conditions present, anaplasmosis can cause severe illness. Prompt treatment can reduce your risk of developing severe illness.

## Lyme Disease

**What is Lyme Disease?** Lyme disease, caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is a potentially serious bacterial infection affecting both humans and animals.

**How do people get infected with Lyme Disease?** It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks.

**What are the signs of symptoms of Lyme Disease?** Symptoms typically appear 2-30 days after the bite of an infected tick.

Typical symptoms include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle & joint aches
- A characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans



Later symptoms include neck stiffness, facial or Bell's palsy, and even heart palpitations/irregular heartbeats.

If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system.