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MCHD HEALTH BLOG

The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICKS

Ticks are an unfortunate part of life in the beautiful grassy, wooded areas that are spread out across Morgan County. After you enjoy camping, hunting, gardening, or any other outdoor activity this summer, make sure you check yourself and family members for ticks. Make sure you check your body, clothing, and gear. Use a mirror if necessary. Also, shower or wash off your body as soon as possible after coming indoors. If you do find a tick on your body, slowly remove it with a pair of tweezers and then thoroughly clean the area with soap and water. Keep a record of when you found it and removed it.

Some ticks carry Lyme disease, which can be transmitted by an infected tick biting a human. Symptoms of Lyme disease typically begin 3 to 30 days after an infected tick bite and can include a bull's eye rash, headache, fever, chills, muscle pain, joint pain, and fatigue. Call your doctor if these symptoms appear.

Protect your family against ticks by treating your clothing and gear before heading outside. 0.5% Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear and remain protective through several washings. When choosing insect repellents to protect exposed skin, check to make sure it has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and follow all directions on the product label. Do not use products containing Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children under 3 years old.

The Ohio Department of Health accepts ticks or photos of ticks for species identification. If you would like to send a tick to be identified, you can drop them off at the Morgan County Health Department Monday – Friday, between 8am and 4pm. We ask that the tick is brought in a sealed container and you call MCHD at 740-962-4572 prior to drop-off.

If you'd like more information about tick-borne diseases and how you can keep your family safe, visit www.morganpublichealth.org or www.odh.ohio.gov/ticks.