**BE TICK EDUCATED**

**TICKS…**

1. Are wingless, parasitic arachnids with no antennae and four pairs of legs
   1. Are very small and have different life stages present at different times of the year, their larval stages have
   2. only three pairs of legs
2. Are often found in areas of high grass and bushy wooded areas, but are also found on beach grass and
3. sunny fields.
4. They wait for hosts to brush up against them. There are some that are known to crawl towards potential
5. hosts. They do not fly, jump, or drop from trees.
6. Attach to animal and human hosts.
7. They insert their biting mouth parts, they do not bur­row under the skin.
8. A bite from an infected tick that is attached long enough may cause illness.



**DISEASE**

Tick borne disease symptoms are often very similar to common maladies, such as the flu, and are not always properly diagnosed. Tick borne diseases are diagnosed with blood tests. Not all ticks carry disease and different ticks can carry different diseases. It is possible to contract a tick borne disease and not know you were even bitten by a tick, nor have a bull’s eye rash, or even a fever. If you find a tick attached, properly pull it out using tweezers.

**AVOIDING TICKS**

* Wear light colored clothing (better to spot the buggers)
* Wear long sleeved shirts and pants
* Tuck your pant legs into your socks
* Wear closed shoes with no grommets
* Walk in the center of pathways, avoiding game trails, brushy, or grassy areas
* Frequently check yourself for ticks
* Consider using insect repellents if you are going to be out in tick infested areas

**REMOVING TICKS**

If the tick has attached, use tweezers, or cover your fingers with paper to grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Pull steadily and firmly until the tick lets go. Apply antiseptic and save the tick for your physician, or lab, to identify. Never twist, squeeze, or use petroleum jelly or other substances to remove a tick.

If you become ill after a visit to a tick infested area, be sure to seek medical attention and let the physician know you have been exposed to ticks, and save it for identification.