

# Found a Tick in Illinois?



## Get a FREE identification!

Scan QR code at right for more information or visit the [INHS Medical Entomology](#) lab website

### 1 Is the Tick Attached?

### Remove tick properly

- For ticks previously removed or crawling loose, **skip to Step 2**
- For attached ticks, find advice on removal and health care follow-up with **CDC Tick Bite Bot** →
- Once tick is removed, place in a secure container and immobilize by placing in a freezer for 30 minutes or more



Scan QR code for help from the **TICK BITE BOT**

### 2 Record Details

Write down details (form available on back of this page)

- The likeliest dates of tick encounter & the date of removal (*required*)
- Illinois county of residence (*required*)
- County & Zip Code where tick removed (*required*)
- If the bitten individual bit traveled outside their county of residence within the past 10 days (*required*)
- Location where tick likely encountered - state, county, and zip code (*required*)  
More than one location acceptable. Names of public areas, like parks, encouraged.

### 3 Send Pictures or Samples

SEND PHOTOS	SEND SAMPLES
<p>Once tick is immobilized, take unobstructed photos of top &amp; bottom of tick against a light, solid-colored background following instructions at: <a href="https://www.etick.ca/en/content/photographic-guide">https://www.etick.ca/en/content/photographic-guide</a></p> <p>E-mail pictures &amp; required details: <a href="mailto:IllinoisTickID@gmail.com">IllinoisTickID@gmail.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Mail live ticks: Drop in sandwich bag with handful of fresh green leaves</li> <li> Mail dead ticks: Drop in sandwich bag with cotton ball damp with rubbing alcohol</li> <li> Securely seal bag by folding tape over top</li> <li> Fold sheet of paper around bag (to prevent crushing)</li> <li> Put in regular envelope with required details &amp; add single stamp</li> </ul> <p><b>Send via regular mail to:</b> INHS Medical Entomology Lab - Tick Surveillance Program, 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820</p>

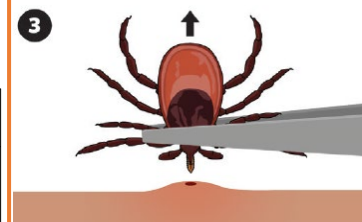
**Submissions Without All Required Details May Not Be Identified**



1 Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.

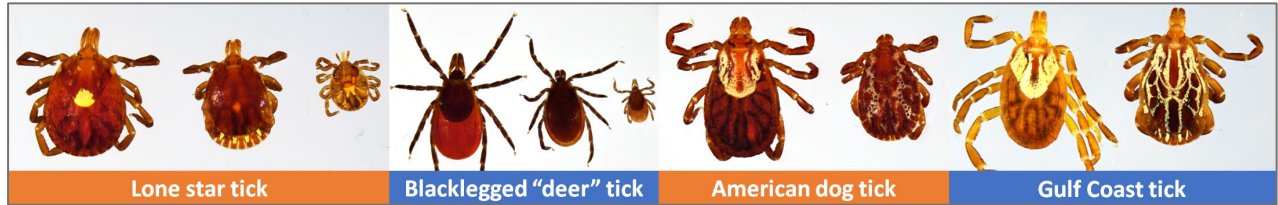


2 Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick.



4 After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water

Sidebar images & from CDC: [cdc.gov/ticks/removing\\_a\\_tick.html](http://cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html)



## Tick Identification Service – Sample Submission Form

For people and their pets living in or visiting Illinois, complete this form and send with tick samples or photos for FREE expert identifications and professional preservation

### INSTRUCTIONS

Specimens and photos may NOT be identified if **required** information is not provided  
Completing optional sections is most helpful for surveillance efforts but not required

- **For physical specimens:** Complete information below and mail form with specimen
- **For digital photos:** Complete information below and e-mail with the photo to [IllinoisTickID@gmail.com](mailto:IllinoisTickID@gmail.com)

**Illinois County of Residence (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional; if no email provided result will not be returned): \_\_\_\_\_

### Encounter Date and Time

**Date Encountered (required):** \_\_\_\_\_  
*If exact day not known: enter week, month, & year*

**Time of Day:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*If time not known: enter 3-hr time periods (like, 6am-9am, 9am-12pm)*

### Most Likely Encounter Location (more than one acceptable)

**State (required):** \_\_\_\_\_ **County (required):** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

Location name (like, name of park): \_\_\_\_\_

GPS coordinates (latitude, longitude): \_\_\_\_\_

*On a smartphone, GPS coordinates can be obtained by opening a maps application (e.g., Apple, Google), touch the area where specimen was found until a pin appears, the coordinates will appear somewhere on the screen*

**Was the tick attached? (required)** (was tick embedded in skin and physically removed from a person, pet, or livestock?)

NO

YES **State, County, and Zip Code where removed (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date tick removed (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel history (required):** please indicate if the individual bitten by a tick traveled outside their county of residence in the past 10 days (choose "not applicable" if the tick was not attached)

YES

NO

NOT APPLICABLE

**Any other details to share?** (like, whether ticks have been found at this location before or if a loose tick was found crawling on a person, pet, wall, bush, car, etc...)

**LEARN MORE**

For more information about the INHS Medical Entomology Lab Tick ID service visit:  
<https://medical-entomology.inhs.illinois.edu/bitemap/>