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?**
   - 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

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**
   - Once tick is immobilized, take unobstructed photos of top & bottom of tick against a light, solid-colored background following instructions at: https://www.etick.ca/en/content/photographic-guide
   - E-mail pictures & required details: IllinoisTickID@gmail.com

   **SEND SAMPLES**
   - Mail live ticks: Drop in sandwich bag with handful of fresh green leaves
   - Mail dead ticks: Drop in sandwich bag with cotton ball damp with rubbing alcohol
   - Securely seal bag by folding tape over top
   - Fold sheet of paper around bag (to prevent crushing)
   - Put in regular envelope with required details & add single stamp
   - **Send via regular mail to:** INHS Medical Entomology Lab - Tick Surveillance Program, 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820

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

Funded in part by a grant from Illinois Lyme Association and Illinois Department of Natural Resources
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

**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/