



MILTICK is a free tick testing and identification service available for ticks removed from Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and their dependents. Tick drop-off locations are at KACH ER, Primary Care Department, and West Point Public Health Department (located in Building 606).

This kit provides you with a quick, easy means of obtaining identification of ticks for pathogens, including those that cause **Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (and other emerging human rickettsioses), ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, ewingii ehrlichiosis, and babesiosis**. This testing is not for diagnosis or treatment of patients. Miltick is for surveillance purposes only.

Why is tick-borne disease awareness important to the Army?

Lyme and other diseases transmitted by ticks represent an occupational health risk, adversely impacting military readiness and the health of military dependents and surrounding communities. Readiness of the Force is the Army's number one priority.

What can I expect after a tick bite?

Tick bites often produce a mild allergic reaction (red, itchy lesion) within the first 48 hours of attachment. This reaction may last several weeks; however, this is not an indication of disease transmission. It is important to note that not all ticks are infected with a disease-causing pathogen – only about 9% of the ticks submitted to the MILTICK are infected with one or more human pathogens. Likelihood of disease transmission is related to the geographic region where the tick bite occurred, tick species, and the length of time the tick is attached. Prompt removal of any tick found biting is paramount.

How can tick-borne disease be prevented?

AVOID TICK BITES! Routinely check your skin and clothing for ticks while in tick habitat, and carefully check your whole body once you come indoors. Use the buddy system to help check areas you cannot see. Remove attached ticks as soon as they are found; use sharp tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible, apply steady upward pressure. Kill ticks by drying clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes.

What is reported back to the tick-bite victim, and how quickly are results reported?

Results of tick identification and engorgement level are reported back to West Point Public Health Department. Within 1 day of receipt; results of 'infection status' analysis are reported, usually within a week. The West Point Public Health Department will directly contact the patient if the tick comes back positive. At that time, we will ask the patient/guardian screening questions. After the initial screening the Public Health Department will educate the patient on proper monitoring and/or guidance.

A positive tick result does not necessarily indicate that the patient should or will be treated.

