

**Subject:** CCSU Tick Bite Protocol

**Purpose:** Develop a standardized protocol to guide the nurse and other staff in the evaluation, triage, and care of students presenting with tick bites

“A tick is a small, blood-sucking, parasitic arachnid that lives in or near wooded or grassy areas.”(Taliaferro, Resha, 2020) Ticks require blood to live, they attach to a host such as: deer, moose, dogs, and humans. Once attached, they often move to a warm, moist location like the armpit, groin, or hair. Most illnesses spread by ticks do not develop until the tick has been attached for at least 24 hours. (Taliaferro, Resha. 2020)

**Procedure:**

Student presents to the health office with an attached tick:

1. Ask information gathering questions:
  - a. When did you notice the tick?
  - b. Try to determine the possible source of the tick.
  - c. Identify the type of tick if you are able.
2. Remove tick if able:
  - a. Cleanse the site with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
  - b. Use fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
  - c. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do NOT twist or jerk as this can cause mouth parts to break and remain in the skin. If this does occur, remove mouth parts with tweezers. If unable, leave it alone and let the skin heal, the tick head will expel naturally and does not carry Lyme.
  - d. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, iodine scrub, or soap and water.
  - e. If parents request to see the tick. Attach the tick to tape and place in a sealed bag or container.
  - f. Dispose of the tick by placing it in alcohol, sealing it tightly in tape, or flush it down the toilet.
  - g. Local allergic reactions typically appear within the first 48 hours of attachment and are usually <5cm in diameter. This is NOT an Erythema Migrans rash.
  - h. Inform parent/guardian of the signs and symptoms that require a healthcare provider's attention following a tick bite. Send tick/tick bite info to parents/guardians either via email or in print.
  - i. Have parents monitor the student's health status for up to 30 days post tick bite.
  - j. If there is suspicion that the tick has been attached for longer than 24 hours, notify the parent and refer to their healthcare provider for possible prophylactic measures.

Date Warned: 12/05/2023 - CCSU

Date Adopted: 12/18/2023 -Adopted by the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Board on behalf of the District Boards: Caledonia Cooperative School District, Cabot School District, Danville School District, Peacham School District, Twinfield Union School District

- a. Watch for the appearance of the following symptoms in the next 3-30 days:
- Fever
  - Chills
  - Headache
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle and joint aches
  - Swollen glands
  - Erythema Migrans rash-average appearance at day 7 at the site of bite, gradually expands to 12 or more inches, may feel warm to the touch, may clear in the middle to form a bullseye

Student presents to the health office with EM or bulls-eye rash:

1. Call the parent/guardian to notify of possible tick bite sometime within the last 3-7 days
2. Refer to the primary care provider for further evaluation.

Resource:

Taliaferro, Resha. School Nurse Resource Manual. Evidence Based Guide to Practice. 10th ed., 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>

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