

Tick season is here in Northwoods

WAUSAU, Wis. — Ticks are smaller than you think but they can pack a big bite. They're dormant in the winter and emerge when the snow disappears which means they're ready to catch a ride on their next human or animal.

Ashley Johnson is a Nurse Practitioner at the Aspirus Tick-Borne Illness Center in Woodruff where they provide advanced care to diagnose, control and treat tick-borne illnesses. She says there are three main types of ticks in our region, Deer Ticks, Wood Ticks and the Lone Star Tick.

"The Deer Tick is responsible for transmitting Lyme Disease," said Johnson. "It is a smaller tick and has a burnt red body.

The Wood Tick is larger and responsible for transmitting Ehrlichiosis as well as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The Lone Star Tick is not very common and it is responsible for transmitting Ehrlichiosis and alpha-gal syndrome."

In order to prevent tick bites, you want to prevent them from getting onto your skin. Some tips include:

- Tuck your pants into your socks.
- Wear tall boots if you're going out into the woods.
- Use bug sprays with at least a 30 percent Deet concentration.
- Perform daily tick checks anytime you're done spending time outside.