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## **Mosquito and Tick Surveillance Underway in Muskegon County**

Muskegon, MI - [Public Health Muskegon County](#) (PHMC) is participating in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance and Prevention Program this summer. The program aims to help identify mosquito and tick species present in Muskegon County and educate the community on mosquito and tick related diseases such as West Nile Virus, Zika Virus, and Lyme Disease.

As part of this program PHMC will be setting mosquito traps and conducting tick drags in Muskegon County, identifying the species, and reporting the information to MDHHS. In addition, PHMC will be sharing the following information about mosquito and tick related disease prevention on social media and on our website, [www.muskegonhealth.net](http://www.muskegonhealth.net).

To minimize mosquito bites:

- Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#).
- Wear long sleeves and pants from dusk through dawn when many mosquitoes are most active.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors. If you have it, use your air conditioning.
- Empty standing water from flowerpots, birdbaths, gutters, pool covers, discarded tires, etc.

To minimize tick bites:

- Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#).
- Wear long sleeves, pants and boots when hiking in wooded or grassy areas.
- Walk in the center of hiking trails and avoid areas with tall grass and leaf litter.
- Treat dogs for ticks. Dogs are very susceptible to tick bites. They may also bring ticks into your home.
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors to find crawling ticks before they bite you.
- Perform tick checks. Ticks are often found in body creases and hard-to-see areas such as the groin, armpits, behind knees, and scalp but can attach to any part of the body. Remove any ticks right away.

MDHHS provides tick identification at no charge. Photos may be submitted for identification by email at [MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov). Kits for submitting a tick by mail are available at [Public Health Muskegon County](#). Ticks that are identified as blacklegged ticks (formerly deer tick) and are alive will be forwarded for Lyme disease screening at no cost. Ticks that are dead when received or are from animals will not be tested.

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Notes to the Editor:

Links: [Instructions for submitting photos](#)  
[Instructions for submitting ticks](#)

[Michigan's Five Most Common Ticks](#)  
[Michigan Lyme Disease Risk Map 2019](#)  
[Michigan Arbovirus Summary 2018](#)