



## Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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### News Release

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### Immediate Release

#### ***The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department to Assist with Tick Identification***

Kingsford, Michigan – May 7, 2020. In Michigan, there are several kinds of ticks that bite people and pets, and some can carry harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Not all tick bites will make you sick, but tick-borne diseases do occur in Dickinson and Iron Counties and can be serious if not treated. Knowing what kind of tick bit, you may be important in knowing what your risk of disease is and may help your physician decide how to treat your illness.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provides tick identification at no charge to Michigan citizens. There are two ways to have a tick identified, 1) By submitting a photo of your tick, or, 2) by sending the tick to the MDHHS for microscopic identification. If you want to submit a photo of your tick, the MDHHS will make all attempts to identify the tick based on the condition of the tick and the condition of the photos. However, definitive tick identification may only be made by sending the tick for microscopic examination. Visit [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases) for additional information on submitting ticks for photo identification.

In the past, MDHHS could also test ticks for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease, but this is a service that they no longer offer.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department will assist you with sending the tick to MDHHS. Ticks can be submitted to the Health Department's Environmental Health Division, 818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford or 601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, Monday-Friday from 8-4pm. There is no cost to this service. If you have questions, please contact us at 906-779-7239.

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