



[INSERT ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL NAME]

TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

This Tick Policy is intended to clarify for parents and families, [INSERT ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL NAME]'s precautions for prevention of tick contact, and if this contact does occur, how we will handle it.

PREVENTION

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services states that prevention of disease with frequent tick checks after outdoor exposure is the best way to prevent Lyme disease. Removal of a tick within 24-36 hours of attachment can help prevent disease transmission.

1. Children will be given age appropriate lessons about ticks, tick-borne diseases, and methods of prevention and removal prior to their first trip onto the land.
2. Children will be encouraged to wear hats or bandanas. If you wish to have your child sprayed with repellent, please send in a bottle, labeled with your child's name, to be kept at school for this purpose.
3. Teachers will supervise application of repellent as needed.
4. Please provide clothing in your child's extra clothes bag that may be used for hikes (such as long pants and socks).
5. Children should have sneakers or boots at school at all times to be worn during hikes.

After time spent outdoors, we will do tick checks, especially in areas behind the knees and the back of the neck. [INSERT TEACHER'S NAME/STAFF] will inform parents when the children have been in the woods or in a field area so that further checks may be done at home.

TICK REMOVAL

If a tick is discovered unattached we will remove it promptly and discard. If we find a tick attached to the skin, we will remove it using the CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommendations as follows. We will:

- Use a tick removal instrument to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

If a tick is removed, the parent will be notified and [the tick will be put into a plastic bag, labeled with the date, time and place, and sent home.] **[OR]** [the tick will be kept in the child's file and an email or verbal notice will be sent to parents.] A log is kept of ticks found and removed. Occasional tick sweeps of the property will be done to determine the prevalence of ticks in the area.