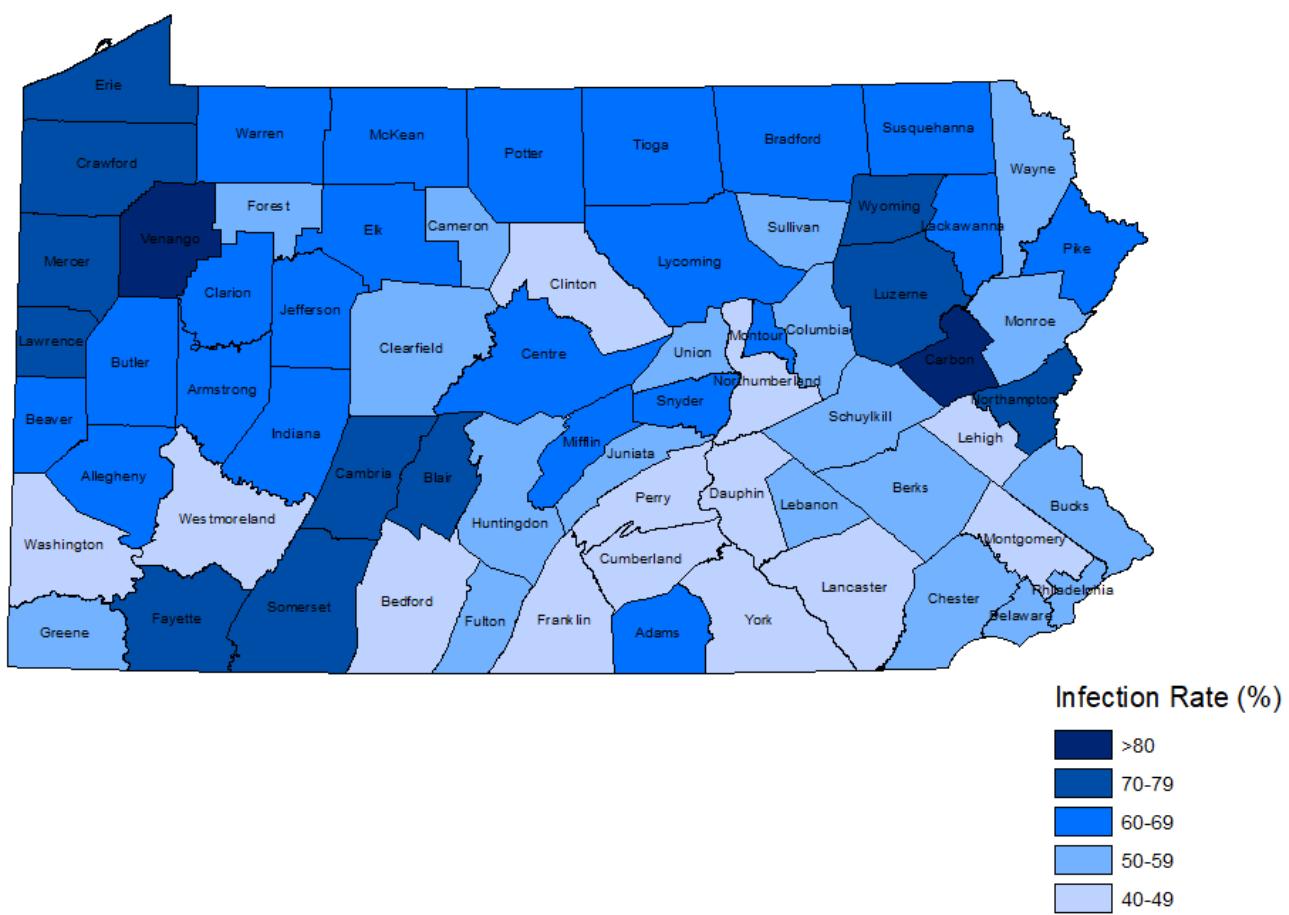


## Ticks

The only species of tick in Pennsylvania known to spread Lyme Disease is the Black-legged tick, also known as the Deer tick. The Black-legged tick is also the most common tick in Pennsylvania. Through surveillance done throughout the year, we know that the infectivity starts at 40% and only goes up. The map below shows the infectivity throughout the state.



While Lyme disease is the primary disease we look for, and far more common, the ticks are tested for *babesia* and *anaplasma* as well. If you find a tick on you and start to feel any of the below symptoms, go see a doctor as soon as possible.

**Symptoms for Lyme** - include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migraines. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system.

**Symptoms of Babesia** - Some people develop nonspecific flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, sweats, headache, body aches, loss of appetite, nausea (the feeling of sickness in the stomach), or fatigue.

**Symptoms for Anaplasma** - Fever, severe headache, muscle aches, chills and shaking.

## You found a tick embedded in your skin – now what?

It usually takes a tick carrying Lyme Disease 36 to 48 hours to infect the person it attaches to. According to the CDC, this is how you remove a tick:

### How to remove a tick:

1. Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers. If you cannot remove the mouth easily with tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by
  - o Putting it in alcohol,
  - o Placing it in a sealed bag/container,
  - o Wrapping it tightly in tape, or
  - o Flushing it down the toilet.

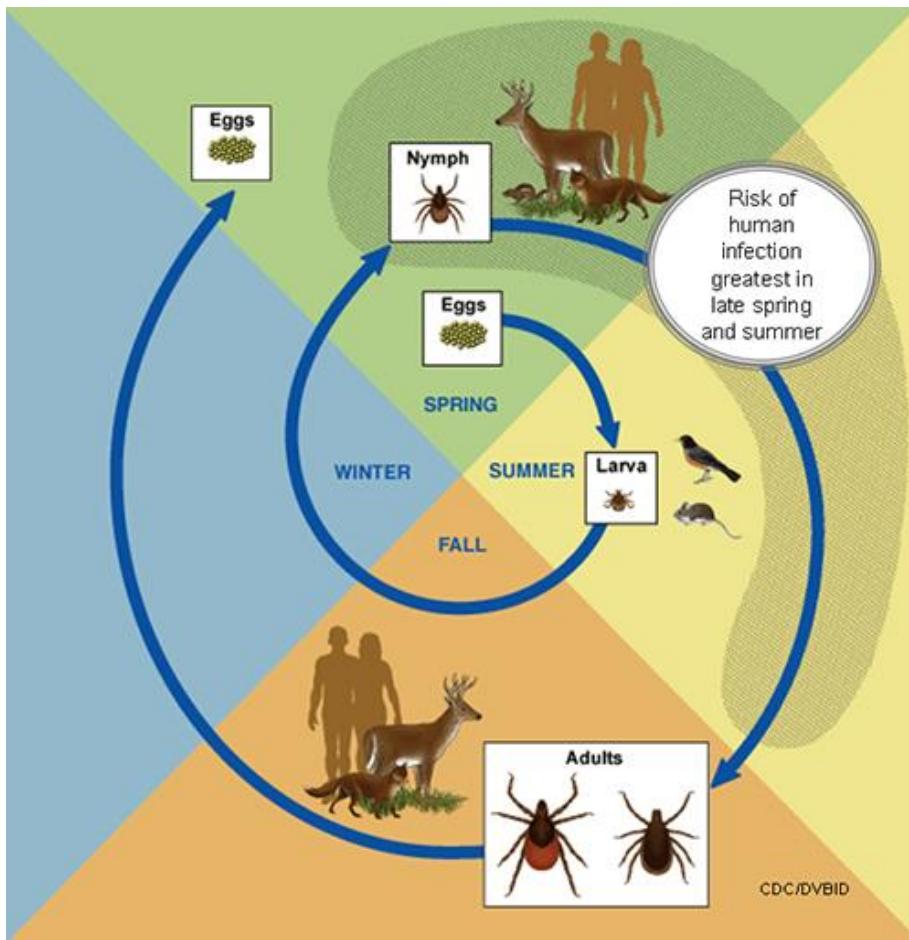
\*Avoid using folklore type removal methods such as burning it off with a match or covering it in petroleum jelly. The goal is to remove it as fast as possible to limit the infection time.

### Ticks Found in Fayette County:

- Black-legged Tick
- Dog Tick
- Asian Lonestar tick
- Rabbit Tick
- Moose Tick

### Ticks Found in Washington County:

- Black-legged Tick
- Dog Tick
- Asian Lonestar tick



Tick Life Cycle

For more information:

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