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As tick season approaches, the Albany County Department of Health is asking for your help in preventing tick-borne diseases.

In 2024, for Albany County, the following diseases were found in blacklegged ticks (deer ticks, *Ixodes scapularis*): *B. burgdorferi* (causes Lyme disease); *A. phagocytophilum* (causes human granulocytic anaplasmosis); *B. microti* (causes babesiosis); Powassan/Deer tick virus; and *B. miyamotoi* (bacterial causes tick borne relapsing fever).

It is important to take precautions when in wooded or grassy areas where ticks may be present. Encourage people to check themselves and their pets for ticks daily, and to remove any ticks promptly and properly. Remind them to use repellents that contain permethrin on clothing and DEET or picaridin on exposed skin, wear close-toe shoes, wear light-colored clothing to spot ticks easily, and tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.

Free tick removal kits are available from the Albany County Department of Health, especially for families who spend a lot of time outdoors. Individuals can request one kit per household, and your organization or business can request up to 30 kits for distribution by contacting Ms. Christina Winn, Public Health Educator, by email at christina.winn@albanycountyny.gov, or by phone at (518) 447-4650.

Continuing to educate your customers about prevention and early identification of tick-borne diseases, along with prompt treatment and reporting, will help reduce these diseases in Albany County. Your efforts to promote the health of Albany County residents are greatly appreciated. For more information or assistance, please contact us.

You can order free tick-borne disease education materials from the New York State Department of Health at https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/4208/n_zpub.htm#ticks_mosquitoes_parasites

Sincerely,

Christina Winn

Christina Winn, Public Health Educator



Albany County Department of Health is nationally accredited and meets rigorous public health standards set forth to best meet the needs of our community.