

**TIOGA CENTRAL SCHOOL
TIOGA CENTER, NY**

Dear Parent/Guardian

Recently we have had an increased incidence of students with ticks present on their bodies. We are just sending this memo to recommend checking your child's body for ticks, especially if they have been playing in a wooded area or in a nearby open grassy area. These are the primary habitats of ticks.

Ticks are external parasites. The tick, itself, cannot burrow into the skin. Instead, only their mouthparts enter the skin. Ticks depend on blood to develop and produce eggs. Ticks can only crawl; they cannot fly or jump. On humans, ticks migrate around the hairline, which is behind the ears, or in the armpits. It takes five to six hours for a tick to become firmly attached and up to ten days for it to become fully engorged with blood.

The risk of contracting an infectious disease from a tick is greatly reduced if the tick is removed within 24 hours of attachment. Not all ticks are infected with disease. The New York State Department of Health states the appropriate way to remove a tick is to use steady, upward motion away from skin. **Do not use kerosene, matches, or petroleum jelly to remove ticks.** Disinfect site with soap and water. Record date and location of the tick bite. If a rash or flu-like symptoms appear contact your health care provider immediately.

If you would like further information regarding ticks or diseases carried by ticks here are some websites you can access.

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/geographicdistribution.html>
2. <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>
3. http://www.cdc.gov/media/matte/2012/05_ticks.pdf
4. <http://www.identify.us.com/idmybug/ticks/tick-FAQS/index.html>
5. <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lime/ind>

Sincerely,

Penny Richter RN, BSN, School Nurse
Lynn Klossner RN, School Nurse