MCDH
MCHENRY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Promoting Better Health Since 1966

RARER TICKBORNE ILLNESS AWARENESS

Anaplasmosis

What is it?

Anaplasmosis is a bacterial infection spread by blacklegged (deer) ticks and can usually be treated successfully with antibiotics when diagnosed early.

Babesiosis

What is it?

Babesiosis is caused by a parasite that infects red blood cells. Infections can range from mild to severe, particularly in people with weakened immune systems.

Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS)

What is it?

Alpha-gal syndrome is an allergy that can develop after certain tick bites and may cause allergic reactions to red meat & other mammal-derived products.

Powassan Virus

What is it?

Powassan virus is a rare viral infection that can affect the brain and nervous system. There is no specific treatment or vaccine, making tick bite prevention especially important.

***Anaplasmosis, babesiosis**, & **Powassan virus** is primarily caused by the blacklegged deer tick.*

***Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS)** is primarily caused by the lone star tick.*

***Powassan virus** has also been associated with the groundhog/woodchuck tick (left) & squirrel tick (right).*

If you develop fever, rash, headache, fatigue, or other unexplained illness after a tick bite, contact your healthcare provider.

Need help identifying a tick?

McHenry County Department of Health's Environmental Health division offers tick identification services.

Call (815) 334-4585 for more information.