FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Livingston County Tick Bite Advisory

HOWELL, Michigan. - (May 27, 2015) As summer approaches and people begin to spend more time outside, it is important to take precautions against tick bites. The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) would like to remind people to protect themselves from tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Ticks are typically found in wooded or brushy areas with tall grass and leaves. The ticks most commonly found in Michigan include the American dog tick, which can carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and the blacklegged (deer) tick, which can spread Lyme disease.

Many tick-borne diseases have similar symptoms. Contact your healthcare provider if you develop signs of illness such as a fever, body aches, or rash in the few days after experiencing a tick bite or recreating in an area with tick habitat.

You can prevent tick bites by:

- Avoiding tick-infested areas
- Using insect repellent, following the manufacturer’s instructions
- Bathing or showering as soon as possible after coming indoors
- Performing daily tick checks

Because ticks must usually be attached for at least a day before they can transmit the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, early removal can reduce the risk of infection. Use tweezers to grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick’s body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic.
For more information on diseases carried by ticks, please visit www.lchd.org, www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases, or www.cdc.gov. If you are interested in obtaining Michigan Tick ID Cards please call LCDPH at (517) 546-9850.

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