

Rockville Centre Union Free School District

Administration Building

128 Shepherd Street
Rockville Centre, New York 11570-2298
(516) 255-8957 ☎ FAX (516) 255-8810
www.rvcschools.org



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June 13, 2015

Dear Parents/Persons in parental relation:

Noreen Leahy, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

As summer is approaching so is tick season. During summer months, your child may be at an increased risk to disease carrying insects such as ticks. You should be especially vigilant when your child returns from field trips, camp or other outdoor summer activities with high grasses, wooded areas, and brushy fields. Please remember to perform body checks on your child for ticks. Your child should bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on them. You should check your child for ticks at warm parts of the body such as under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, and especially in their hair.

Ticks can enter your home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and day packs. Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for an hour to kill remaining ticks. It is recommended to remove leaf litter, clear tall grasses and brush around your home and at the edge of your lawn. Keep any of your playground equipment, decks, and patios away from your yard edges and trees, discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoons, and stray dogs) from entering your yard by constructing fences and remove old furniture, mattresses, or trash from your yard that may give ticks a place to hide.

If you find a tick attached to your child's skin, there's no need to panic. Using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick since it can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in your child's skin. If this occurs, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, contact your child's healthcare provider. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water. Place the tick in a zip lock bag and contact your child's provider. Some providers prefer to test the tick for Lyme disease.

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If your child develops a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, immediately have your child's healthcare provider examine your child. Remember to tell your child's healthcare provider about their recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where your child most likely acquired the tick.

Enjoy the summer and see you in September!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tara M. Algerio-Vento, FNP-BC'.

Tara M. Algerio-Vento, FNP-BC
District Family Nurse Practitioner

/tmav



Tick pictured (Left)