

Ticks are Not All Alike

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There are 8 different species of ticks in Massachusetts. Not all of them bite humans. Not all of them cause Lyme disease (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alpha-gal-syndrome/in-depth/tick-species/art-20546861>).

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease according to the CDC in 2019.

The deer tick, also known as the black-legged tick, can carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites (Mayo Clinic). Humans can get anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, borrelia miyamotoi disease, and Powassan virus.

This type of tick is most common in the eastern half and midwestern region of the U.S.

The Lone Star Tick is found in the southern and eastern parts of the U.S.

They both may be associated with alpha-gal syndrome which is associated with developing a meat allergy. This has been in the news lately, https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/31/4/24-0577_article.

American dog tick, also known as the wood tick. This type of tick can also carry viruses, such as anaplasmosis.

It is wise to consider every tick you encounter as a possible disease vector. Don't be alarmed but use good tick safety practices.