



Ehrlichiosis

Caused by *Ehrlichia muris eauclairensis*

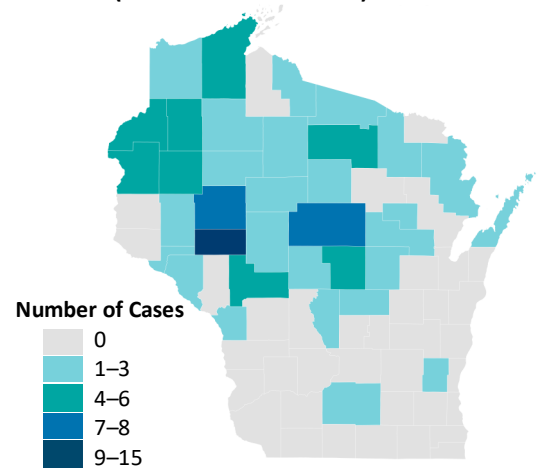
E. muris eauclairensis (EME) is a bacterium that causes ehrlichiosis. It is spread to people through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, also known as a deer tick. EME was first discovered in an Eau Claire County resident in 2009. All known cases of EME have occurred in Wisconsin and Minnesota. People who spend more time outdoors in these states may be at higher risk of getting EME.

What causes it?



- ▶ Infected adult and young blacklegged ticks can spread EME to people. Blacklegged ticks are commonly found in areas with woods, brush, and tall grass.
- ▶ EME can be spread during the spring, summer, and fall. The risk for EME is highest in the spring and early summer when young, blacklegged ticks are most active. Young, blacklegged ticks are very small, about the size of a poppy seed, so many people may not know they were bitten by a tick.

Total Cases of Ehrlichiosis (*E. muris eauclairensis*) 2009–2021



What are the signs and symptoms?



Common symptoms:

- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Sweats
- ▶ Muscle Aches
- ▶ Chills
- ▶ Nausea and vomiting

Rare, but serious symptoms:

- ▶ Respiratory failure
- ▶ Organ failure
- ▶ Uncontrolled bleeding
- ▶ Damage to the brain or nervous system

Symptoms occur within two weeks after getting bitten by an infected blacklegged tick. The elderly and people with weakened immune systems may be at higher risk for developing serious symptoms.

What are the treatment options?



EME can be easily treated with antibiotics, typically doxycycline. EME can cause severe illness if left untreated.

See page 2 for more information!



How can it be prevented?

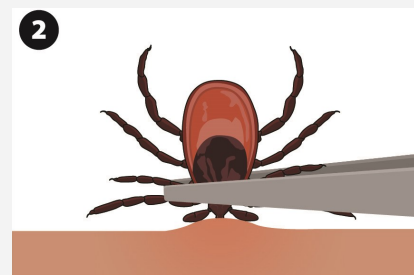


- ▶ Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and high socks with pant cuffs tucked in the socks when outside.
- ▶ Use Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellants (for example DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus).
- ▶ Treat outdoor clothing and gear with 0.5% permethrin.
- ▶ Avoid wooded, brushy areas, or areas with tall grass and leaf litter.
- ▶ Check yourself and others for ticks daily when coming in from outside.
- ▶ Use veterinary-recommended tick preventatives such as topicals, oral preventatives, or tick collars on pets year-round.
- ▶ Reduce ticks around homes:
 - ▶ Remove leaf litter, and clear tall grasses and brush from around your home.
 - ▶ Place a 3-feet wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick movement into your yard.
 - ▶ Discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoons, and stray dogs) from entering your yard by constructing fences and keeping trash in secured bins.

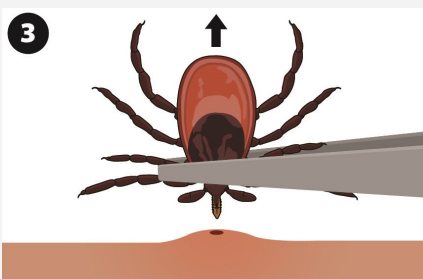
How to remove a tick:



Use tweezers to remove the tick.



Grip the tick by its mouthparts as close to the skin as possible.



Pull straight up.



Wash area with soap and water.

