GREAT ISLAND TICK REMEDIATION PROJECT



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND AN ATTACHED TICK



TICK REMOVAL

Remove embedded tick with a tick removal tool or tweezers.

Get as close to the skin as possible, be careful to get the head & mouth parts. Pull tick straight up, firmly.

Clean the bite site with an antiseptic or soap.

View instructional video, click here.



CONSIDER TESTING YOUR TICK FOR PATHOGENS

Be careful not touch the tick with your bare hands.

Save the tick in a sealable bag or vial, noting date of removal.

Send the tick to a lab for testing to learn if it is carrying pathogens like Lyme disease/other tick-borne illnesses.

Recommended lab: <u>Tickreport.com</u> Learn more about ticks, click <u>here</u>



MONITOR THE BITE SITE

Take a picture and draw a circle around the bite site, to help your track and document any changes.

Monitor the site and other parts of your body to see if a rash develops (week or more). If so, it may mean a reaction to infection.

You may not develop a rash - it may not be a bullseye.



CONSULT WITH YOUR DOCTOR

See your doctor immediately if you develop a rash/experience any symptoms. **Preventative** treatment should be considered when bitten by a tick, or at the first signs of symptoms.

Recommended treatment: 21 days of antibiotics (doxycyline or other depending on age/other factors).

Early Lyme disease detection improves your outcome.



TRUST YOUR SYMPTOMS

Your <u>symptoms</u> are an integral part of your diagnosis. Keep a journal. Download GLA's **Lyme Symptom Tracker App** to help, click <u>here</u>
Ask your doctor to be tested for Lyme disease/other tick-borne illnesses.
Note: Antibodies may take 4 - 6 weeks to develop for more accurate test results.



