

INTRODUCING 'THE TICK APP'

*An app from researchers at the University of Wisconsin- Madison and
Columbia University*

June 17, 2020 –As the weather becomes nicer and people head outdoors to enjoy nature, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) reminds the public that this is the season for tick bites.

In response to this knowledge, researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Columbia University, thanks to funding from the Center for Disease Control and Infection, have announced the development of 'The Tick App'.

The Tick App is a smartphone application that allows individuals to report ticks in their area as well as share tick experiences with researchers. This information allows researchers to better understand the practices and activities that impact exposure and risk for tick-borne diseases.

The app also includes tick identification information, suggested ways to prevent tick exposure and allows for tick photo submission for identification by an expert.

"Traditionally, the tick that carries Lyme Disease, the black-legged tick, has been found along the Lake Michigan shoreline. This area continues to see the highest number of Lyme Disease with 27 cases in Manistee, Mason and Oceana counties in 2019. Unfortunately, in recent years we are increasingly seeing the ticks move further inland," said Tom Reichard, Environmental Health Director at District Health Department #10. "To help us track the movement of the ticks, the State of Michigan is promoting the use of the Tick App where anyone can report their encounters with ticks. Anyone can be part of this research effort."

The Tick App can be downloaded on [GooglePlay](#) or [iTunes](#) for smartphones. There is also an option to participate on a desktop if an individual doesn't have a smartphone.

For more information, visit *The Tick App* [website](#).

Disclaimer:

The Tick App is a research study in which people contribute as Citizen Scientists. With that said, users of the Tick App will need to provide consent to the research and complete an enrollment survey.

The research obtained from the Tick App will be used to develop better strategies to prevent tick bites, reduce tickborne disease and improve the health of individuals.

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