

TICKS

Students should be inspected for ticks after time in woods or brush. Ticks may carry serious infections and must be completely removed. **DO NOT** handle ticks with bare hands.

Wear disposable gloves when exposed to blood and other body fluids.

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- There are a variety of tools that can be used to remove a tick.
- The key is to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible.
- Grasp the head of the tick and avoid compressing the tick's body.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
- **DO NOT** twist or jerk the tick as the mouth parts may break off.
- It is important to remove the **ENTIRE** tick.
- Take care not to squeeze, crush, or puncture the body of the tick as its fluids may carry infection.
- Never use petroleum jelly or a hot match to kill and remove a tick. These methods don't get the tick off the skin and can cause the insect to burrow deeper and release more saliva (which increases the chances of disease transmission).

- Place tick in plastic bag incase parent/guardian wants to have the tick identified.
- Record the date and location of the tick bite.

- After removal, wash the area of the body where the tick was, thoroughly with soap and water.
- Wash your hands.
- Apply a bandage.

Contact responsible school authority & parent/guardian. Student may remain in school. Send tick home with student.

Document care provided.