



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue to prioritize the well-being and education of our students, I would like to inform you about an important topic that we will be covering in our classrooms: **tick bite prevention**. It is important for our students to be aware of the potential health risks ticks pose to people and pets and to know how to stay safe when visiting tick habitats (places where ticks live).

Hundreds of people are diagnosed with a tick-borne disease every year in NYC, and that number is growing. Most New Yorkers who become sick are infected when visiting upstate New York, Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut or other surrounding areas. Some people also get infected when spending time in parks and other natural areas on Staten Island or in parts of the North Bronx. Ticks can be found in natural areas shaded by trees, brush or tall grass, including yards, especially if the property borders a park or other natural area.

Many children spend a significant amount of time outdoors, engaging in various activities such as hiking and camping. Understanding ticks and their habitats will help students recognize potentially tick-infested areas. Learning about preventive measures may help them adopt practices such as wearing protective clothing, using insect repellents and conducting regular tick checks to minimize the risk of bites. By teaching students about tick-borne disease symptoms and the importance of early detection, they become empowered to take necessary precautions and seek medical attention when required and develop a sense of personal responsibility for their well-being. This knowledge will extend beyond the classroom, benefiting them throughout their lives.

We encourage you to reinforce the importance of tick bite prevention at home. Talk to your child about ticks, share personal experiences if you have, and encourage your child to ask questions and seek more information. By working together, we can ensure that our students are able to navigate their surroundings safely. For your convenience, we have included some resources that you might find helpful on the back of this letter.

If you have any concerns or questions about this topic or any other aspect of our curriculum, please feel free to reach out. We value your partnership and appreciate your involvement in your child's education. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a safe and enriching learning environment for your child.

Warm regards,

## Resources

- NYC Health Department’s Ticks webpage: [nyc.gov/health/ticks](http://nyc.gov/health/ticks)
- New York State Department of Health’s Proper Tick Removal video: [youtube.com/watch?v=1Vj-ghxCJbA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=1Vj-ghxCJbA)
- NYC Health Department’s Tick Repellent video: [youtube.com/watch?v=wnnJq8vs3U4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=wnnJq8vs3U4)
- NYC Health Department’s Insect Repellent Safety webpage: [nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/insect-repellent-safety.page](http://nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/insect-repellent-safety.page)
- Environmental Protection Agency’s Repellent Search Tool: [epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you](http://epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Ticks webpage: [cdc.gov/ticks/index.html](http://cdc.gov/ticks/index.html)

The following resources are available digitally on our Ticks webpage at [nyc.gov/health/ticks](http://nyc.gov/health/ticks). Print copies may be requested by calling **311**:

- NYC Tick ID and Removal Wallet Card ([on.nyc.gov/tick-id-card](http://on.nyc.gov/tick-id-card))
  - Visit [nyc.gov/health/ticks](http://nyc.gov/health/ticks) for additional languages.
- All About Ticks: A Workbook for Children and Their Parents ([on.nyc.gov/tick-workbook-kids](http://on.nyc.gov/tick-workbook-kids))
  - Spanish ([on.nyc.gov/tick-workbook-kids-sp](http://on.nyc.gov/tick-workbook-kids-sp))
- Ticks Taking Over? Take Back Your Yard Booklet ([on.nyc.gov/tick-yard-booklet](http://on.nyc.gov/tick-yard-booklet))
  - Spanish ([on.nyc.gov/tick-yard-booklet-sp](http://on.nyc.gov/tick-yard-booklet-sp))