

Oklahoma Ticks

Oklahoma ticks include the Lone Star, American dog and Black-legged tick.



(For identification, view pictures at the Poison Control Center website at www.oklahomapoison.org).

Ticks are capable of transmitting several diseases, including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis, Lyme Disease, STARI (Southern Tick Associated Rash Illness) and Tularemia.

If you become ill within one week of a recent tick bite or after visiting a tick infested area, call a physician right away!

Prevention Tips

- Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks can be seen more easily. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into socks. Wear closed-toe shoes, not sandals.
- Examine everyone frequently, including pets, for ticks. The longer the tick remains attached, the greater the risk of tick borne illness.
- Use a tick repellent with DEET on skin and clothing. Follow the directions specified on the container and use the lowest strength for children. Reapply as directed on the label.

Tick Bite First Aid

To remove the tick, use tweezers if possible, and grasp (don't squeeze) the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight back.

- Seed ticks (small immature ticks) may be removed with the same shampoo that is used for treating body lice. Consult your pharmacist. Removal of seed ticks can also

Oklahoma Ticks (cont 'd.)

be done using masking tape. Place the adhesive side of the tape over the tick and slowly peel off. This will frequently remove the tick.

- Do not use bare hands to remove the tick. Wash hands thoroughly after removing the tick.
- Be very careful not to crush the body of the tick, as that may cause it to inject its stomach contents into the wound.
- After removing the tick, examine the bite area for any remaining tick parts in the wound. A magnifying glass may be helpful. Contact a medical doctor for head removal.
- Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.
- **Mark the date of the bite on the calendar.**

If flu-like symptoms, such as fever, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, headache, chills, joint pain, swollen glands or a rash, develop within three days to two months after the bite, see your physician. Lyme disease symptoms may not develop for up to two months. Symptoms of Rocky Mountain Fever usually develop within 2 weeks of bite.

Scorpions

Scorpions in Oklahoma can produce a painful sting, but serious life-threatening symptoms are rare.



Swelling is generally limited.

A sensation of numbness and tingling may occur in the area of the sting for 4 to 6 hours but usually resolve within 24 hours.

Centipedes

Centipedes have flattened bodies, long antennae and one pair of legs on each body segment. Their bite produces immediate pain, redness, itching and swelling that can persist for several hours. Swollen glands, irregular pulse, headache, dizziness and vomiting are less commonly seen. Consult a physician if these symptoms occur.



General First Aid for Bite/Sting

- Wash bite/sting area well with soap and water.
- Apply an ice pack on the bite and alternate 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off.
- Elevate and rest the wounded area to decrease swelling.
- Watch for signs of allergic reaction: wheezing, difficulty breathing, rapid severe swelling, abdominal cramps, vomiting, dizziness, chest tightness, hoarseness or blue discoloration to the lips.
- Watch for signs of infection: increasing pain, increasing redness and/or drainage.

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1-800-222-1222

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Bites and Stings



Oklahoma Poison
Control Center
Always Here, Always Free

24 hour help-line answered by specially trained pharmacists and registered nurses.

Oklahoma Bites and Stings

Snakes

The three types of poisonous snakes in Oklahoma are the:

- Copperhead
- Cottonmouth
- Rattlesnake



Lee McGowan

These snakes are all pit vipers.

Do:

- Stay calm and keep victim calm
- Remove all tight clothing, shoes or jewelry
- Limit victim's physical activity
- Keep the bite AT the level of the heart
- Wash the wound with soap and water
- Go to the hospital right away if a pit viper bite is suspected

Do Not:

- Catch or kill the snake
- Suck on the wound with your mouth
- Use electric shock/stun gun on the wound
- Give sedatives or alcohol
- Apply a tourniquet
- Cut into the wound
- Use heat
- Pack wound in ice

All snakebites should be considered poisonous. Call the poison center at once!

See www.oklahomapoison.org for more information

Spiders

Brown Recluse - This spider has a brown violin - shaped marking on the topside of its middle section. It is a light brown spider with thin legs which are longer than its body.



Ohio State University - Not Actual Size

These spiders can live for long periods of time without food or water. Habitats include cracks, crevices, and dark, undisturbed places such as attics, closets, bedding and furniture.

Prevention includes:

- Pick up clutter
- Shake out and inspect clothing that has been dropped on the floor
- Check bed sheets before retiring if the home is heavily infested
- Control the spider's food supply: silverfish, crickets and other insects

Signs and Symptoms

- Mild to severe pain usually develops within 2 to 8 hours. One or two tiny puncture holes may be seen at the site of the bite, surrounded by a whitish and reddish halo.
- Blisters appear usually within 24 hours. An ulcer may be seen within 48 hours. Pain and itching increase. The bite area also feels hot, swollen and firm to the touch. Within 24 to 48 hours, there may be flu-like symptoms, joint pain and rash.
- **If you see dark urine within 72 hours after a bite, get medical attention right away. Serious symptoms may occur in children.**
- The tissue dies and sloughs away and an

open ulcer may form within 1 to 2 weeks. Healing may take 6 months or longer. Plastic surgery may be required. Although rare, serious reactions may cause death.

- No antidote is currently available.

Black Widow - A jet black shiny appearance and marble-shaped body help identify this spider. It has markings on the underside of the abdomen which are often the shape of an hour-glass and can be red, yellow or orange in color.



Not actual size

This is a shy trapping spider that spins a messy web and waits for its prey. It generally does not attack unless its web is disturbed.

Dry, dimly lit, secluded areas such as those around work and storage sheds, woodpiles, basements, storm shelters and garages are attractive locations to this spider.

Signs and Symptoms

- The bite may be a sharp, pinprick-like pain. This pain may subside and reappear as a dull, throbbing ache followed by severe muscle pain and cramps
- After 30 to 120 minutes, the person may experience abdominal pain, restlessness, sweating and headache
- Board-like hardness of abdomen or back is common
- Antivenin is available though not often used

Bees, Wasps, Hornets

Female honey bees have a stinger attached to a poison sac that is left in the wound when the sting occurs. Remove the stinger from the wound as soon as possible to prevent the injection of any more venom. Then follow with general first aid. Symptoms usually go away within a few hours.

Wasps and hornets may sting repeatedly. Wasp and hornet stings can easily become infected.

Although stings normally cause only a painful wound, serious allergic reactions have occurred in some people. Multiple stings, especially to the head or neck, are more serious and can be life threatening.



If you have any of the following: difficulty breathing, rapid and severe swelling, or any other symptoms outside the immediate area of the injury, such as flu-like symptoms or fever, call a medical doctor immediately.

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