

CENTRAL MICHIGAN RECREATION

A PUBLICATION FROM CENTRAL MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Protect Kids from Septic Tank Dangers at Campgrounds

Across the U.S., there have been a growing number of tragic child deaths caused by septic tank drownings. Because of their small size, children are especially at risk of falling into or climbing into septic tanks.

If your campground uses a septic system, it's your responsibility to make sure those tanks are secure and not easy to access.

Here are some steps you can take to keep people safe:

- **Secure the lids:** If your septic tank lids can be screwed down, make sure all screws are in place and tightened.
- **Use locks or barriers:** Install locking hatches or place heavy objects over the risers that kids can't easily move.
- **Maintain access for service:** Even with barriers, the tanks still need to be accessible for maintenance.
- **Block off the area:** Weak spots around septic tanks can collapse under pressure. Consider fencing off the septic area or adding signs and barriers to keep people out.

During your regular campground inspections, sanitarians will check the septic system and make sure the risers are properly secured as part of the campground safety rules – and it can save lives.



Why Cyanuric Acid Levels Matter in Your Pool

Cyanuric acid (CYA) is a chemical used in outdoor pools to help chlorine last longer. It acts like sunscreen for chlorine, protecting it from being broken down by the sun's UV rays. When CYA levels are just right, chlorine can do its job -- killing bacteria, algae, and other harmful stuff in the water.

But if CYA levels get too low or too high, problems can happen:

- Too little CYA means chlorine breaks down too fast in sunlight.
- Too much CYA can stop chlorine from working well and may even lead to purple stains or damage your pool equipment.

To keep your pool safe and clean, aim for a CYA level between 30 and 50 parts per million (ppm). The maximum allowed is 80 ppm, but staying in the ideal range gives the best protection.

If your CYA levels are too high, the only fix is to drain about half the pool water and refill it with fresh water. This dilutes the CYA and brings it back down to a safe level.

Routine testing and adjusting of CYA levels is key to keeping your pool or hot tub safe, healthy, and ready for swimmers.



Bird Flu in Michigan: What You Need to Know

Since early 2022, bird flu -- also known as avian influenza -- has had a major impact in Michigan. The H5N1 strain has caused serious problems for poultry, leading to sudden deaths, fewer eggs, and breathing issues in chickens and turkeys.

But it's not just birds being affected. The virus has also spread to wildlife, including wild birds and some mammals. In May 2024, a dairy farm worker in Michigan became the second person in the state to catch the H5N1 virus. The virus has even been found in dairy cows, where it can reduce milk production, although most cows recover within two weeks.

To help stop the spread of bird flu, experts recommend:

- Keeping domestic birds away from wild birds
- Following strong biosecurity practices, especially on farms
- Not touching sick or dead birds without protective gear

Right now, the risk to the general public is still low. But staying alert and following safety guidelines is key to keeping the outbreak under control.

Avian influenza has been detected in Michigan, but YOU can take steps right now to protect Michigan's flocks.

How to Recognize a Sick Bird

It's important to be able to recognize the symptoms of avian influenza.

Sick birds may experience...

- Sudden death in multiple birds
- Significant drop in water consumption
- Lack of appetite, energy, or vocalization
- Drop in egg production
- Diarrhea
- Nasal discharge, sneezing, or coughing



Please Note: HPAI is **NOT** evidenced by one dead bird or one sick bird in a flock while the rest are healthy. Instead, look for multiple unusual deaths within a 24-hour period and some of the symptoms mentioned above in the rest of the flock.

If a bird has these signs, please call the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development:
800-292-3939 (daytime)
517-373-0440 (evening/night)

Learn more about avian influenza at michigan.gov/birdflu

Summer Water Safety: Test Before You Splash!

Summer is here -- and that means swimming season is in full swing! Before people jump into pools, spas, or lakes, it's important to make sure the water is safe.

CMDHD offers water testing for coliform bacteria and *E. coli* to help keep public swimming areas clean and healthy. You can stop by your local branch office to pick up a water test kit.

To stay in line with your licensing requirements, remember to test all indoor and outdoor pools, hot tubs, and swimming areas regularly.

Also, watch out for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) this summer. These fast-growing bacteria (cyanobacteria) can show up in ponds or lakes and produce toxins that are dangerous to people, animals, and the environment. HABs might look like:

- Foam
- Scum
- Paint-like streaks
- Floating or underwater mats

If you think there might be a HAB in your pond or lake, report it by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or emailing algaebloom@michigan.gov.

Play it safe -- test your water and stay alert all summer long!

DANGER: Harmful Algal Blooms

A harmful algal bloom has been found in this water:



DO NOT touch water or shoreline with algal blooms.



DO NOT swim or recreate near algal blooms.



DO NOT let pets swim in or drink water near algal blooms.



DO NOT boat, jet ski, or fish in algal blooms.



IF you went in the water DO rinse people and pets off.

Harmful algal blooms look like: spilled paint, pea soup, floating scums, mats, sheens, clumps, or streaks



When in doubt, keep yourself, children, and pets out!

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet/animal get sick after going in the water. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/HABs



Campground Pre-Opening Checklist



Disinfect the water system (if the well was shut off during the off-season)



Take two bacteria samples (at least 24 hours apart)



Send sample results to CMDHD



Fill out and submit the Seasonal Start-Up Form (send to CMDHD)

Need help or missing a form? Contact your local CMDHD office.

Need Help with Water Sampling? We've Got You Covered!



Tired of forgetting to take water samples? Or wasting time (and gas money) driving them to a lab or post office?

Good news -- **CMDHD can collect your water samples for you!** And the best part? You'll **only pay for the lab costs**. There are no extra fees for collection or site visits if you're a transient water supply.

If you're interested in a contract or have questions, contact Chris by phone or email.

Let us handle the sampling -- so you can focus on everything else.

Chris Vernier
989-426-9431 ext. 1330
cvernier@cmdhd.org



WATER TEST

Tick Safety in Michigan: What You Need to Know

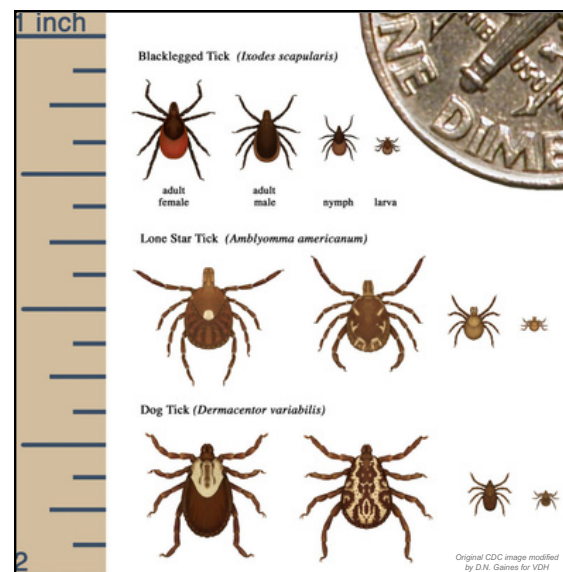
Michigan is home to several types of ticks, including the **American Dog Tick** and **Blacklegged Tick**. While small, ticks can carry serious diseases like **Lyme Disease** and **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**. That's why it's so important to know how to protect yourself, your family, and your pets.

What are ticks?

Ticks are **parasites**, which means they feed on other animals to survive. They can bite and attach to humans and animals, sometimes spreading diseases in the process.

How to avoid ticks:

- **Avoid tall grass, bushes, and dense woods** whenever possible
- **Use insect repellents** that contain DEET or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- **Treat clothes and gear with permethrin** (do not apply directly to skin)



- **Wear long sleeves and tuck pants into socks** when walking through wooded or grassy areas
- **Shower and check your body after being outdoors**, especially areas like the groin, armpits, and scalp

If you find a tick on you:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible
2. Pull upward slowly and steadily without twisting or jerking
3. If any mouth parts break off, remove them with tweezers
4. Clean the area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water

Free Tick ID Service:

Not sure what kind of tick you found? You can send a photo to **MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov** for free tick identification.

To learn more, check out the **MDHHS "Ticks and Your Health" Guide** and **Michigan's Five Most Common Ticks**.

GET STARTED WITH MiEHDWIS

You can upload and submit applications, construction plans and other documents to EGLE with the MiEHDWIS system.

More features and new communication tools will be available as MiEHDWIS continues to expand. Users can look forward to viewing licenses and paying invoices directly on MiEHDWIS in future system releases and Updates.

VISIT Michigan.gov/MiEHDWIS TO GET STARTED!

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

- Learn about MiEHDWIS.
- Get help from **Knowledge Base Articles and FAQs**.
- Watch **tutorial videos** on how to upload documents.

REQUEST ACCESS SIGN UP TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS

- Sign up for a **MiLogin for Business** account.
- Request access to MiEHDWIS.
- Wait for a System Administrator to grant you access.

SUBMIT FILES/REQUESTS UPLOAD DIRECTLY TO EGLE

- Submit documents and files, such as receipts, construction permit applications and more directly to EGLE.



Please remember to **only send documentation once**. Documents submitted through MiEHDWIS do not need to be followed up by sending an email or paper copy in the mail.

If you have questions, please reach out to our helpdesk: EGLE-MiEHDWIS@Michigan.gov



Michigan.gov/MiEHDWIS



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

www.cmdhd.org