

Dear Parents:

Over the past two weeks, we have experienced an increase in the numbers of students at both GHS and HES with ticks on them. Although it is not uncommon for this to occur around this time of year, the recent spike has elevated our concerns at the schools.

As has been district protocol, parents will continue to be notified if a tick is removed from their child during the school day. Our nurses have been closely monitoring the tick problem, and will be assisting our staff and administration in monitoring the situation with students. Please note the Tick Identification Card included with this correspondence. This information may be helpful identifying ticks you may find at home. The deer tick is known to spread both Lyme Disease and the Powassan Virus (which has been in the news as of recent).

Mr. Rich Calarco, our Pest Management Supervisor for the Town of Hebron, has been in contact with the DEEP regarding our issues on school grounds in Hebron. We have sent multiple ticks to the DEEP field office in New Haven for identification. Beginning this week, we will be applying Tick Free Organic Insect Control around the playgrounds, fences, and tree lines to address the current issue. The spray being utilized is a 25(b) exempt product that is organic and will serve as a tick deterrent. However, if the issue becomes more prevalent, the DEEP will provide formal approval for the application of a pesticide on school grounds. In order for this to occur, strict guidelines will need to be followed regarding the time in which the product can be applied and when anyone is permitted to re-enter the application area. We will provide a formal notification to families in the event a pesticide application is necessary.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.