

HARD TICK RELAPSING FEVER

What is HTRF?

- Hard tick relapsing fever is caused by *Borrelia miyamotoi* and transmitted by the bite of some ticks: the black-legged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, in the eastern United States and the western black-legged tick, *Ixodes pacificus*, in the western United States.

Where is it found?

- In Washington State, *Ixodes pacificus* ticks infected with *Borrelia miyamotoi* have been identified, but no human cases have been reported to date.

How do you get it?

- HTRF is spread by hard ticks. Hard ticks embed in the skin and feed for longer periods of time (up to seven days) compared to soft ticks.

Symptoms:



Fever



Vomiting



Body Aches



Chills

HTRF cases rarely experience multiple cycles of fever; relapsing fever has only been documented in approximately 10% of cases.

Learn more about ticks:



doh.wa.gov/ticks



Preventing HTRF

- Use EPA-registered insect repellent to prevent tick bites.
- Wear long-legged pants and shirts when in tick habitat.
- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Check your body, clothing, and pets for ticks after being outdoors.
- Shower within two hours after being in tick habitat.



Hard Tick *Ixodes pacificus*

