

TICK-BORNE RELAPSING FEVER

What is Tick-borne Relapsing Fever?

- Tick-borne relapsing fever (TBRF) is an illness caused by certain species of *Borrelia* bacteria, which can be transmitted by some species of ticks.
- People can only get TBRF if they are bitten by an infected tick. TBRF is not spread directly to humans from animals or from one person to another.

Hard Tick vs. Soft Tick Relapsing Fever

- TBRF occurs worldwide. In the United States, cases of TBRF are categorized into two groups: soft tick relapsing fever (STRF) and hard tick relapsing fever (HTRF). There are differences between the bacteria that cause these infections, the ticks that carry them, and where a person may be exposed.

Hard Tick
Ixodes pacificus



Soft Tick
Ornithodoros hermsi



Symptoms



Fever



Vomiting



Body Aches



Chills

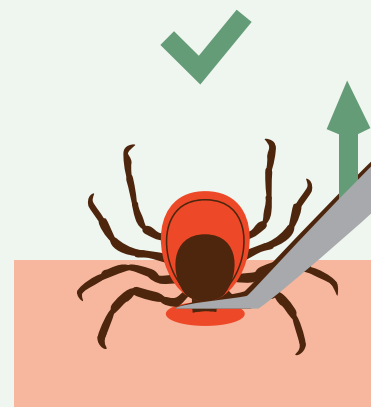
- STRF characteristically cycles between 2-7 days of fever and 4-14 days without fever. This cycle may repeat many times, over several weeks, if the person is not treated.



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

Removing a Tick

If you find a tick on you, remove it as soon as possible to reduce your chances of getting sick. Use clean tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible and pull steadily upward.



Clean the bite area with soap and water, then wash your hands. Call your healthcare provider if you start to feel sick within 1 month of the tick bite.

If you or your family member develop symptoms of relapsing fever, visit your healthcare provider or contact your local health department.