



# Tick Management Plan

Review Date: 10/09/2026

## Sources

The following resources were used to develop this plan:

- [www.healthdirect.gov.au/tickbites](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/tickbites)
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and Kaleidoscope Children, Young
- People and Families 'Fact sheet: Bites and Stings'
- New South Wales Government Health 'Tick Alert'
- Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) information for patients, consumers and carers: Tick allergy

The above authorities recommend either freezing (Ether spray) or killing (Permethrin cream) the tick or removing with fine tipped tweezers if no risk of allergy.

## Ticks are a hazard in our area.

We occasionally find ticks on children at preschool.

A tick bite can potentially cause a life-threatening allergic reaction.

## Strategies - How will it be done?

Procedure for responding to a tick bite:

1. Contact parents/carers to come to preschool (within 15 minutes) and treat the tick bite in their preferred way for example:
  - Applying a topical substance to freeze/kill the tick,
  - Removing the tick using tweezers, or
  - Taking the child away for tick removal under medical supervision.
2. If the parents/carers are too far away (more than 15 minutes) or we can't reach them or their emergency contacts, we will follow the procedure on this form.
3. At all times, children will be comforted and monitored for an allergic reaction. All educators have up-to-date anaphylaxis and first aid training and access to a current EpiPen in our first aid kit.

As freezing or killing the tick reduces the likelihood of an allergic reaction, this is the preferred method despite neither Ether spray nor Permethrin cream being registered for use in humans for this purpose.

They specifically advise NOT to use methylated spirits, petroleum jelly, nail polish, oil or alcohol, or a lighted match to cause the tick to die or drop off.

If the tick can NOT be treated with Ether spray or Permethrin, the above sites recommend leaving the tick in place WITHOUT scratching or itching the bite.

Scratching or itching the tick causes more toxin to be released increasing the risk of an allergic reaction. In practice, we have found that small children find this very difficult.

Using the above guidelines and after a risk management assessment which balances the risk of allergic reaction if the tick is left in place and scratched versus the tick being treated with recommended but unregistered substances, we have updated our tick management plan as explained here.

- [www.health.gov.au/diseases/japanese-encephalitis](http://www.health.gov.au/diseases/japanese-encephalitis)
- [www.nsw.gov.au/news/japanese-encephalitis](http://www.nsw.gov.au/news/japanese-encephalitis)

## Evaluation

All enrolments will strictly adhere to the Tick Management Plan to ensure equity and consistency for the community.

**President's Name:** Lauren Heath.....

**President's Signature:** .....

**Date:** ...10...../....09...../...2024.....

**REVIEW DATE:** .....10/09/2026

Policy Dated	Adopted by	Review Date
10/09/2024	Lauren Heath	10/09/2026