

# TIME IS TICKING

Can you find  
15\* ticks on  
this poster?  
\*including eggs!

*Is the  
tick the  
villain of  
this  
complicated  
story?*

Learn more



**Adult:** Females have a final meal, lay thousands of eggs, and restart the cycle.



**Nymph:** After molting, nymphs seek a second meal and are the stage most likely to bite humans.



**Larvae:** Six-legged larvae take their first blood meal, usually from small animals.



**Eggs:** Laid in leaf litter in clusters of hundreds to thousands.

Ticks move through three feeding life stages that each require one blood meal to grow or reproduce. They don't jump or fly; they wait on plants and detect heat, CO<sub>2</sub>, and movement from passing hosts. Different stages feed on different animals, which shapes the pathogens they can pick up and spread. Their activity depends on temperature and humidity: warm, moist conditions keep them questing, while cold or dry periods push them into dormancy.