

Tick Bites Cause Serious, Fatal Disease After Recent Travel to Tecate, Mexico

Five people were hospitalized with Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) after being bitten by a tick in Tecate in Baja California, Mexico. Of the five patients, four were younger than 18, and three died.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is spread by the bite of infected ticks. Without treatment, the disease can become very serious and fatal within days.

If you or a family member recently visited Tecate in Baja California, Mexico and developed any of the following symptoms within 2 weeks, get medical help:

- fever
- headache
- rash

Other symptoms include:

- nausea
- vomiting
- abdominal pain
- joint and muscle aches

In Mexico, the infected ticks are often brown dog ticks found on domestic dogs in city and rural areas. Some people may not know they were bitten.

Prevent the disease by:

- Treating your dogs for ticks
 - Wearing protective clothing
 - Using Environmental Protection Agency-approved insect repellents.
 - Checking for ticks after outdoor activities or being around dogs.
- Remove ticks immediately.

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/index.html> and <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/rmsf-mexico>

