I have been bitten by a tick:

Do I need antibiotics?

Was the tick a deer tick?

Lyme disease comes from bite of a deer tick of any age; no other tick species causes Lyme disease. Refer to the Vermont Department of Health Website to review types of ticks and their markings:


If the tick was NOT a deer tick, you do NOT need antibiotics for Lyme disease.

How long was the tick attached?

If the tick was attached less than 36 hours, transmission of Lyme is unlikely to have occurred and you do NOT need antibiotics.

I have been bitten by a deer tick and it has been attached for 36 hours

Call your primary care office promptly. A course of antibiotics can prevent Lyme disease from occurring.

I am not sure what type of tick bit me and/or how long it has been attached

Call your primary care office. Carefully reviewing your history and monitoring your symptoms is crucial and will help determine if you need treatment.