



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, tick bites can result in the transmission of pathogens that cause serious diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus and some of these diseases can be deadly if not treated promptly; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease continues to be the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the United States caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is transmitted by the common blacklegged tick found primarily in the Northeast and upper Midwest regions of the country; and

WHEREAS, approximately 476,000 Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year with 95 percent of Lyme disease cases reported from 16 high-incidence jurisdictions, including New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were over 5,800 reported Lyme disease cases in New Jersey and New Jersey consistently has some of the highest rates in the nation. Lyme disease is an under-reported illness, and therefore the actual number of people with Lyme disease in New Jersey is likely much higher; and

WHEREAS, ticks that carry Lyme disease can also carry several other pathogens, many of which are reported in New Jersey, and occasional co-infections have been reported; and

WHEREAS, the risk of contracting a tickborne disease can be year-round, the nymphal ticks, which are the size of a poppy seed, are most active in the spring and summer months; and

WHEREAS, tickborne diseases are diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), laboratory tests, and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks; and

WHEREAS, most tickborne diseases can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics and by taking steps to prevent tick bites can help prevent tickborne diseases, including using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, applying pesticides, and reducing tick habitat. It is the responsibility of every community to educate the public about the symptoms, to seek prompt treatment, and how to prevent tickborne diseases; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Health coordinates various tickborne disease activities including surveillance, education and outreach initiatives, and works to advance workforce development and training to sustain and strengthen tickborne disease public health practices; enhances tickborne disease surveillance capacity; and performs and evaluates educational outreach to healthcare providers, public health partners, policy makers and the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 2024

AS

TICKBORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this tenth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-four, the two hundred forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR