



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, from 2004-2016, human disease cases from ticks have doubled in the U.S.; while Lyme disease accounts for 82percent of all reported tick-borne diseases, spotted fevers, babesiosis and anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis, have become increasingly prevalent; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the U.S. 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 U.S.; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 300,000 people are diagnosed with Lyme disease in the U.S. each year with 95 percent of confirmed Lyme disease cases in 2015 reported from 14 states, including New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, there were over 5,000 reported Lyme disease cases in New Jersey, which was the second highest number of cases reported 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 tick-borne 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;

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

WHEREAS, most tick-borne diseases can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics and by taking steps to prevent tick bites can help prevent tick-borne 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 tick-borne diseases; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Department of Health coordinates various tick-borne disease activities including surveillance, education and outreach initiatives, and works to advance workforce development and training to sustain and strengthen tick-borne disease public health practices; enhance tick-borne disease surveillance capacity and perform and evaluate 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 2019**

**AS**

**TICK-BORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

in New Jersey, and I encourage all community members to help spread tick-borne disease awareness and prevention education.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this first day of April in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR