



Lenawee County
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

LYME DISEASE FACT SHEET

What is Lyme Disease?

Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria that is spread by the bite of an infected tick. In the U.S., most cases are found in northeastern states and the upper Midwest. Untreated Lyme disease can produce a wide range of symptoms, depending on the stage of infection.

What are the symptoms?

Early symptoms:

- Skin rash or redness on bite area which may enlarge and look like a bullseye
- Fever and chills
- Stiff neck
- Fatigue

Later stages may include:

- Additional rashes on other body parts
- Meningitis
- Arthritis of large joints
- Weakness of facial muscles

How to manage tick bites?

- Using tweezers, grip body firmly and pull straight out of skin. Do **NOT** twist
- Clean area and hands after removing the tick
- Place tick in alcohol then in a sealed bag/container
- See healthcare provider if rash or fever forms weeks after tick removal.
- For tick identification, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

How can it be spread?

- Black-legged ticks spread the disease to humans
- Ticks become infected when they bite an infected animal
- Mostly occur during the spring and summer

In most cases, ticks must be attached for at least 36 hours to cause disease

How it is treated?

- Seek treatment early
- **Antibiotics are not routinely recommended after a tick bite, but because of certain conditions it may be prescribed. Discuss this with your health care provider**

How can it be prevented?

Avoid areas with ticks, such as wooded areas and places with high deer population. If you cannot avoid these areas:

- Wear long sleeves, long pants, high socks and shoes
- Wear light colored clothing to spot ticks easier
- Apply tick repellent
- Check your skin for ticks once a day

If bitten by tick, remove immediately.