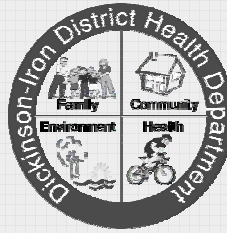


Lyme Disease



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

"Serving the community since 1936 in Health Protection, Health Education and Disease Prevention"

FACTS:

- Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to people and animals by the bite of an infected female tick.
- Cases have been reported in both the upper and lower peninsula and in most of Michigan's 83 counties.
- The risk of developing the illness is minimal in Michigan and even if infection occurs, the disease can be diagnosed and treated with antibiotics.
- The disease is most common from May through August, when ticks are most active, and humans are more active outdoors.

Bats, Bugs and Bacteria Month

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

(906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913

www.didhd.org

Provide assistance with the identification of a tick that has bitten a person

Michigan Department of Community Health Communicable Disease and Immunization Division
517-335-8165

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- Lyme bacteria are not transmitted from person to person contact; they are transmitted to people and animals primarily by the bite of the tick.
- Lyme disease is most often a mild illness mimicking a summer flu, but serious problems involving the heart, joints and nervous system may develop in some individuals.
- Symptoms include tiredness, fever, headache, stiff neck, muscle ache, and joint pain. Additionally, about 80% of patients will have a red, slowly expanding bulls-eye rash at the point of puncture.
- Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose because the disease mimics many other diseases and there is no definitive test for it at this time. A diagnosis should be based on a history of tick bite, the presence of a circular rash, an examination by a physician for other symptoms, and laboratory tests.
- Prompt diagnosis and treatment with antibiotics can cure the infection and prevent later complications in both humans and domestic animals.
- While there is no sure way to completely eliminate the chance of contracting Lyme disease, there are several specific preventative measures one can take:
 - Wear long pants tucked into boots or socks and wear long-sleeved shirts buttoned at the cuff.
 - Use tick repellents containing 0.5% permethrin or mosquito repellents containing 30% DEET.
 - Examine clothing, skin and pets for ticks and remove them promptly.

RESOURCES:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Lyme disease information

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12150_12220-26945--,00.html

Michigan Department of Community Health

About Lyme disease

<http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-25890---,00.html>

Michigan Lyme Disease Association

<http://www.hvcn.org/info/mlda/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Learn about Lyme Disease

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/index.htm>

National Lyme Disease Foundation

<http://www.lyme.org/>

