

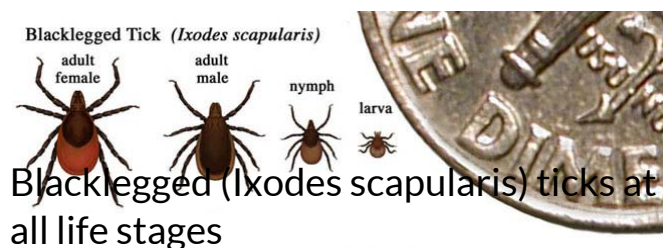


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

## Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks. Laboratory testing is helpful if used correctly and performed with validated methods. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, applying pesticides, and reducing tick habitat. The ticks that transmit Lyme disease can occasionally transmit other tickborne diseases (<http://www.cdc.gov/ticks>) as well.



**PREVENTING TICK BITES**  
Avoid getting infected...

**TICK REMOVAL**  
How to remove a tick...

**TRANSMISSION**  
How ticks spread Lyme disease...

**TREATMENT**  
What to expect from treatment...

**DATA AND STATISTICS**  
Incidence, geography, seasonality and more...

### Lyme Disease FAQs



**Frequently Asked Questions and Hot Topics**

All about Lyme disease...

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

Signs and symptoms of illness...

**DIAGNOSIS AND TESTING**

What to expect from your office visit...

**POST-TREATMENT LYME DISEASE SYNDROME**

If symptoms persist after treatment...

**COMMUNICATIONS TOOL KIT**

Resources for spreading the message...

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Links to clinical trials, key research articles, PubMed search, and more...

**Healthcare Professionals**

**Clinicians, public health officials, and veterinarians**

In-depth information and links...

**Get Email Updates**

To receive email updates about this page, enter your email address:

What's this?  
(<http://www.cdc.gov/emailupdates>)

**Submit**

**Helpful Links**

- **New Video!** – Feeling Worse After Treatment? Maybe It's Not Lyme Disease (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=823jkRlaLgA&feature=youtu.be>)
- Tickborne Diseases of the United States: A Reference Manual for Health Care Providers, Second Edition: Electronic app (Download it free today for iOS (<http://www.cdc.gov/mobile/applications/MobileFramework/tickborne-diseases.html>)) and PDF for printing [PDF - 21 pages]
- Slides and Transcript for HHS Special Webinar on Lyme Disease Persistence, May 22, 2014
- HHS Federal Research Update on Lyme Disease Diagnostics
- Lyme disease stories
- Video: CDC Public Health Grand Rounds, Lyme Disease: Challenges and Innovations, May 19, 2011 ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7L61d--Gml&feature=channel\\_video\\_title](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7L61d--Gml&feature=channel_video_title))
- Free CME online course. Case Study Course on Lyme Disease.
- Travel information (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2010/chapter-5/lyme-disease.aspx>)
- Lyme Disease--Workplace Safety and Health



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**File Formats Help:**

How do I view different file formats (PDF, DOC, PPT, MPEG) on this site?

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/plugins/>)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/plugins/#pdf>)

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Page last reviewed: March 4, 2015

Page last updated: March 20, 2015

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid>)

Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/index.html>)