

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the United States caused by spirochetal bacteria and our understanding of these complex organisms is incomplete; and

Whereas Ticks may harbor and spread more than one disease-causing agent; and tick-borne diseases are caused by a variety of pathogens; and

Whereas in Massachusetts, ticks which may carry Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, including Babesiosis, Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, STARI, and Borrelia miyamotoi which are present in areas across the state; and

Whereas The number of reported cases of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases has dramatically increased and reported cases only represent a proportion of all individuals exposed to or diagnosed with Lyme disease or other tick-borne diseases; and

Whereas If not treated early, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases can infect every part of the body and cause a wide variety of symptoms requiring medical practitioners to have familiarity with their various clinical presentations; and

Whereas Tick-borne diseases are preventable and there are multiple protective and preventative actions that can be taken by individuals to reduce exposure and infection; and

Whereas Through increasing public awareness and physician education, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases among all Massachusetts citizens,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2017, to be,

LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Twentieth Day of March, in the year two thousand and seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY


CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts