



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH
May 2017**

*WHEREAS, Lyme disease is an infectious disease cause by spirochetal bacteria called **Borrelia burgdorferi**; and*

WHEREAS, ticks, the vectors of Lyme disease, are carried by mice, rabbits, squirrels, deer, birds, and other animals; and

WHEREAS, ticks can be so small and hard to detect that many people who contract Lyme disease do not recall being bitten; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease can affect the brain, heart, joints, and other body organs, and mimics many other diseases. Some patients do not develop the characteristic rash and symptoms may not appear for months to years following initial infection. Patients are often misdiagnosed with other conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, depression, or psychiatric illness; and

WHEREAS, prompt treatment with adequate antibiotic therapy in early stage infection cures almost all cases. However, lack of early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment can result in permanent physical damage, disability, or death; and

WHEREAS, testing may produce false positive or false negative results. Citizens and medical providers are encouraged to take all tick-borne disease seriously.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 2017, as LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH. I strongly encourage all citizens to increase their awareness of Lyme disease.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this nineteenth day of April two thousand seventeen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-first.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor