



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado residents, pets, and visitors are often exposed to tick habitats through work, play, outdoor recreation pursuits or travel; and

WHEREAS, tick bites can transmit serious and potentially fatal diseases conditions such as Lyme Disease, Colorado Tick Fever, Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), Tularemia, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever, Tick Paralysis Alpha-gal syndrome and others, resulting in fever, rash and other symptoms which appear like many diseases, making diagnosis difficult; and

WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections is continuing to spread rapidly across the United States; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2021 an estimated 476,000 cases of Lyme disease were identified; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2018 CDC report, tick-borne disease cases more than doubled in the United States between 2004 and 2018, representing almost 80% of all vector borne disease reports; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Colorado reported eight human cases of Lyme disease, the largest annually reported Lyme case number in Colorado history; and

WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in Colorado are likely underreported, due to limited education and prevention awareness, limited surveillance activities, and the difficulty of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, when Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are not quickly and accurately diagnosed or treated, they may result in severe illness, chronic symptoms, or death; and may mimic many other diseases, making diagnosis more difficult; and

WHEREAS, it is important that individuals impacted by Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and conditions have access to support and education; and

WHEREAS, the best protection against tick-borne diseases is awareness, prevention, education, prompt accurate diagnosis, and adequate treatment;

THEREFORE, I Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as

LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES/CONDITIONS AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of May, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis
Governor*