



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado residents, pets, and visitors may have increased exposure to tick habitats through work, play, outdoor recreation pursuits, or travel, placing them in closer contact with ticks, which are carried by wildlife, birds, and domestic animals; 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 that appear like many diseases, making diagnosis difficult; and

WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections is continuing to rise rapidly across the United States, with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated annual case number of 476,000 for Lyme disease alone in the US; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC 2018 study report, tick-borne disease cases more than doubled in the United States in 13 years (2004-2016) and were 77% of all vector-borne disease reports; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, untreated Lyme disease during pregnancy can lead to infection of the placenta; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, Lyme disease infections may result in patients experiencing prolonged symptoms including fatigue, difficulty thinking, and memory problems; and

*WHEREAS, the CDC now lists *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme bacteria) as a disease agent that has been linked to chronic symptoms for which the type, duration, and intensity of chronic symptoms following an infection can be different from person to person; and*

WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in Colorado is likely underreported due to limited education and 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 disabling symptoms, or death, and may mimic many other diseases, including acute and Long COVID, making diagnosis more difficult; and

WHEREAS, support group participation continues to grow annually; and

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

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024, as

LYME & 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, 2024



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis
Governor