

# The Tick Fact Sheet



**From left to right:** The deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) adult female, adult male, nymph, and larva on a centimeter scale. Deer Tick – female compared with size of dime

## What is Lyme Disease?

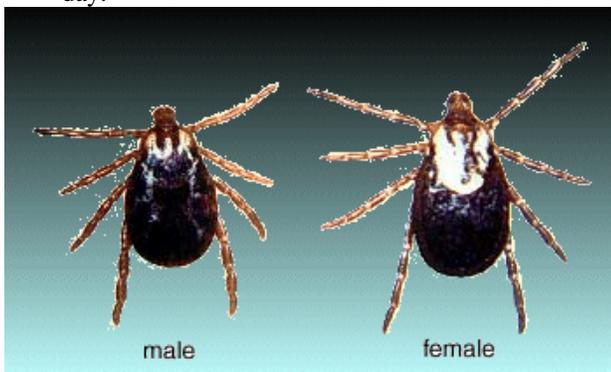
Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria transmitted by the deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*). Lyme disease may cause symptoms affecting the skin, nervous system, heart and/or joints of an individual. The New York State Department of Health is aware of over 40,000 cases in the state occurring since Lyme disease became reportable in 1986.

## What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?

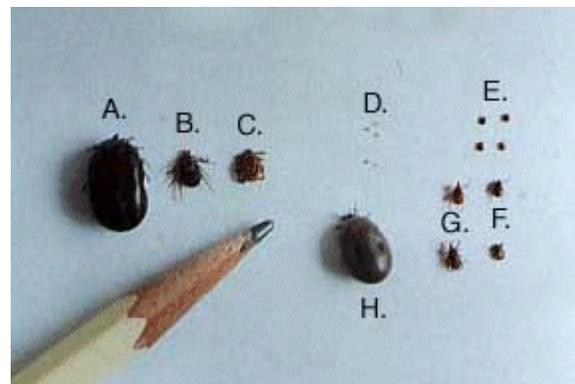
In 60%-80% of the cases, a large, reddish rash about 2 inches in diameter appears and expands around or near the site of the bite. Sometimes, multiple rash sites appear. The early stage of Lyme disease is usually marked by one or more of the following symptoms and signs: chills and fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain, and swollen lymph nodes. If left untreated, complications from late Lyme disease, such as arthritis, meningitis, facial palsy or heart abnormalities, may occur within a few weeks to months. These later symptoms may develop in people who did not have early symptoms or did not recognize them. Swelling and pain in the large joints may recur over many years.

## What can be done to prevent Lyme disease?

When in tick-infested habitat special precautions to prevent tick bites should be taken, such as wearing light-colored clothing (for easy tick discovery) and tucking pants into socks and shirt into pants. Consider the use of repellents. Check after every two to three hours of outdoor activity for ticks on clothing or skin. Brush off any ticks on clothing before skin attachment occurs. A thorough check of body surfaces for attached ticks should be done at the end of the day.



**Wood tick**



**Wood Tick:** A: Engorged female B: Female C: Male  
**Deer Tick:** D: Larvae, E: Nymphs, F: Males, G: Females, H: Engorged female