



New Hampshire Health Alert Network

Health.Alert@nh.gov

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20100910 Lyme Disease Update
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

DATE: September 10, 2010 **TIME:** 1400 EDT

TO: Physicians, Nurse, Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Emergency Departments, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, DHHS Outbreak Team, NHHHA, Public Health Network, DPHS Investigation Team, Zoonotic Alert Team, and DPHS Management Team

FROM: Jodie Dionne-Odom, MD, Deputy State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: Increased number of ticks carrying Lyme disease organism in NH

NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends:

1. Awareness of new state information from black-legged tick collection and testing for the presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the organism that causes Lyme disease. Approximately 60% of the 1,140 ticks collected in NH between 2007-2009 were positive for *B. burgdorferi*.
2. Maintaining clinical suspicion for illness that may be due to Lyme disease, including erythema migrans rash, joint pain, cardiac and neurologic involvement (including Bells Palsy) among New Hampshire residents and visitors. Illness treated in the acute phase is associated with excellent response to therapy.
3. Awareness of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) Lyme Disease Guidelines to consider prophylaxis within 72 hours following a deer tick bite (attached for more than 36 hours, based on tick appearance and engorgement) with a single dose of doxycycline in areas where tick infection is greater than 20%. In NH, based on this new tick infection data, the >20% limit is met for people with exposure in Carroll, Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford counties.
4. Review the health alert network message dated 6/21/10 for full detail on diagnosis and reporting requirements for Lyme disease.
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/20100621-ticks.pdf>

In 2007, it was reported that many ticks in New Hampshire were infected with *B. burgdorferi*. We now have updated information from the laboratory investigation of adult black-legged ticks in our state and we are able to report on numbers from collections in the fall in 2007-2009 (see table on the following page):

Analysis of Ticks collected in NH counties between 2007-2009^

County*	Ticks positive for <i>B burgdorferi</i> (#)	Total number of ticks collected (#)	Ticks positive for <i>B burgdorferi</i> (%)
Carroll	13	32	40.6%
Cheshire	41	67	61.2%
Hillsborough	222	347	64.0%
Merrimack	106	204	52.0%
Rockingham	179	270	66.3%
Strafford	113	194	58.2%
STATE TOTAL:	686	1,140	60.2%

*Belknap, Coos, Grafton and Sullivan counties are not included because they had fewer than 20 ticks tested over the 3-year period.

^Tick numbers and percentage of ticks infected can change between years and locations, therefore estimates may change with additional surveillance.

For additional information:

The link to the statewide prevalence maps on our newly updated NH DHHS website:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/lyme/documents/map0709.pdf>

The link to the IDSA Lyme Disease Guidelines:
<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/508667>

**For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS
Infectious Disease Investigation and Surveillance Sections at 603-271-4496.
After hours/toll free call 1-800-852-3345, ext. 4496.**

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

Message Type

- Alert: Indicates an original alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been updated and superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Status

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Severity

- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Sensitive

- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert.

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required.

Originating Agency: A guaranteed unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database.

If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used please contact:

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