



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the United States. Endemic to Texas, Lyme disease, which threatens all Texans, has been reported in all 11 Texas public health regions.

Symptoms of Lyme disease vary from one individual to another, and may not be present at all in some instances. Typical early symptoms include, but are not limited to, a rash that may resemble a bull's-eye, and a flu-like illness characterized by fever, chills, headache, fatigue, migrating muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes. While early symptoms may disappear on their own, it is imperative that all who develop this disease receive immediate treatment. Weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme disease can suffer from arthritis, hearing irregularities, facial paralysis, stroke and other serious conditions. The onset of chronic late stage disease can have devastating consequences, among them, financial crisis, severe physical disability, and sometimes even death.

The causative agent of Lyme disease, a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, was first identified in Texas in 1984. It is most commonly transmitted through a tick bite. Often smaller than a pinhead, ticks are difficult to detect, but experts advise the public to take certain precautionary measures. Among them are wearing light colored clothing with long sleeves, wearing long pants tucked into socks, and using insect repellent with DEET.

Each May, an educational campaign is launched to heighten awareness about Lyme disease. At this time, therefore, I encourage all Texans to learn more about Lyme disease and its prevention, early diagnosis and treatment options. Tomorrow begins with today's actions, and together, we can continue to make a difference.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2007,

Lyme Disease Awareness Month

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
8th day of May, 2007.


Governor of Texas

