

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP

LYME DISEASE

AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Q. What is Lyme disease?

A. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection, most commonly contracted from a tick bite, that may initially cause a flu-like sickness. Untreated, or inadequately treated, it may cause long-term, persistent illness that can affect many systems of the body. Other tick-borne diseases are often contracted at the same time.



Q. What should I do if I am bitten by a tick?

A. The tick should be removed promptly by pulling it slowly straight out with fine-pointed tweezers or a special tick-removal tool inserted as close to the skin as possible. Do not apply heat, alcohol, petroleum jelly, or any other substance. Aggravating the tick in this way may cause it to regurgitate into your blood, increasing your chances for infection. Do not squeeze the tick with your fingers either, as this can force Lyme bacteria into your body. You can use antiseptic on the site of the tick bite after the tick is removed. Some experts believe that you can be infected almost immediately after the tick attaches to your skin, while others think it takes 24 hours or more to be infected.

Q. What should I do after removing a tick?

A. Call your doctor. Some doctors will prescribe several weeks of an antibiotic such as doxycycline as a preventive measure. If you develop symptoms after a tick bite, see your doctor and be sure to get adequately treated for LD and any co-infections you may have contracted. You can save the tick in a plastic bag or small bottle and show it to your doctor so he can see what bit you. Ticks can be tested for a price, but treatment should not be delayed while waiting for results. A false-negative result could affect your doctor's decision to treat you.

Q. Does the Township have anything to prevent ticks in my yard?



A. Yes! We have Tick Tubes for sale at the Township building. Tick Tubes contain cotton that mice will take from the tubes to line their nests. The cotton is treated with a chemical, permethrin, which kills ticks. The chemical on the cotton will transfer to the mice and kill whatever ticks may be living on them.

For more information, please visit the Township website at www.eastgoshen.org or call 610-692-7171.

Some information on this poster was gathered from the **Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania's "Lyme Disease and associated diseases – The Basics."**