



NJDOH K-12 Tickborne Disease Education Toolkit

Date: September 19, 2024

Public Health Message Type: ☐ Alert ☐ Advisory ☐ Update ☒ Information

Intended Audience: ☐ All public health partners ☐ Healthcare providers ☐ Infection preventionists
☒ Local health departments ☒ K-12 Schools ☐ ACOs
☐ Animal health professionals ☐ Other:

Key Points or Updates:

- (1) New Jersey is among the leading states in the nation for tickborne disease incidence. In 2023, over 7,000 cases of Lyme disease were reported. Although Lyme disease is responsible for the majority of tickborne diseases and conditions, there are several others that impact New Jersey residents, including Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Powassan, and Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis. Taking steps to prevent tick bites and quickly identifying and removing ticks are essential steps to minimizing the risk of tickborne illness.
- (2) New Jersey statute ([Title 18A:35-5.1](#)) requires that Lyme disease prevention be included within the public-school health curriculum. Additional legislation signed by Governor Murphy in 2023 ([P.L.2023, c.60](#)) requires that local educational agencies provide instruction on the prevention of Lyme Disease and other tickborne diseases in grades K-12.
 - a. The NJDOH “K-12 Tickborne Disease Education Toolkit” includes PowerPoint slides and accompanying script, activity sheets and quizzes, and other materials all based on appropriate grade level to easily incorporate lessons into your K-12 curriculum.

Action Items:

- (1) As planning begins for the new school year, it is the ideal time to implement the toolkit into health education lesson plans to highlight the importance of tick identification skills and the prevention of Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases.
- (2) If you used the toolkit over this previous school year(s), please provide feedback on your experience by completing this [brief survey](#) to inform us of your experience and feedback.

Contact Information:

- CDSVectorTeam@doh.nj.gov

References and Resources:

- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/tickborne.shtml>
- https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/vectorborne_ticktoolkit.shtml
- <https://bit.ly/VectorBorne>
- <https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/chp/index.shtml>