



LYME DISEASE

What is Lyme disease?

- Lyme disease is a systemic disease caused by bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*

What are symptoms that could occur?

- A characteristic “bull’s eye” rash
- Early symptoms include:
 - Fever
 - Feeling sick
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Muscle and joint aches
- Late symptoms in undiagnosed and untreated cases:
 - Arthritis
 - Aseptic meningitis
 - Motor and sensory nerve inflammation
 - Encephalitis (swelling of the brain)
 - Heart involvement

How is it spread?

- By the bite of deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) infected with the bacteria
- Not spread from person to person
- The “bull’s eye” rash appears from 3-30 days after exposure with an average of 7-14 days
- Late symptoms can occur weeks to months later, and sometimes without any early signs

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation and sometimes laboratory confirmation
- Treatment with oral antibiotics for 3-4 weeks
- In later stages, long term treatment with intravenous antibiotics may be necessary

How can it be prevented?

- Tuck pants into shoes
- Wear light colored clothing when walking in wooded areas or grasslands
- Apply tick repellent
- Check for ticks after possible exposure

Should the sick child be isolated?

- No

When can the child return to day care or school?

- There is no need to exclude the child from attending school
- The primary care provider should provide information for any restrictions on returning to school

Genesee County Health Department
630 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
www.gchd.us

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.

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