

THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY  
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To: District Superintendents of BOCES  
Superintendents of Public School Districts  
Administrators of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools

From: Kathleen R. DeCataldo

Subject: May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month

In recognition of Lyme Disease Awareness Month, the Department has partnered with the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Library, and other expert organizations to bring awareness, education, and resources to promote the education of students, families and schools on the prevention of tick and tick-borne diseases. Please share this information with school health educators, school health professionals, and other staff in your school or district.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov), Lyme disease is caused through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and sometimes a bull-eye looking rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system.

Being bitten by a tick and acquiring tick-borne diseases are both preventable and treatable. Therefore, it is critical that students, families and schools learn about