



WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the United States caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is transmitted by the common black-legged tick found in nearly one-half of all U.S. counties;

WHEREAS, ticks that carry Lyme disease can also carry at least 15 other pathogens, many of them transmitted within minutes of being bitten, with one painless tick bite frequently resulting in multiple infections, including bacteria, parasites, and viruses;

WHEREAS, the risk of contracting Lyme disease can be year-round, the nymphal ticks, which are the size of a poppy seed, are most active in the Spring. Tick bites are nearly painless, with fewer than 50% of patients with Lyme disease able to recall a tick bite and fewer than 50% reporting a "bull's-eye" rash;

WHEREAS, Lyme disease infects more than 375,000 people annually in the United States, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes this number is closer to 476,000, based on insurance data; and since testing for Lyme disease remains only 50% accurate, the average patient goes two or more years before receiving a proper diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is an underreported illness, therefore, the actual number of people with Lyme disease in Maryland is likely 10 times the reported number of cases, and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a complex, multi-system illness that, if caught early, can be easily treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated, can invade the nervous system, heart, and multiple organs of the body, causing years of pain, suffering, severe disability, and even death;

WHEREAS, Children are at the highest risk for contracting Lyme disease, it is the responsibility of every community to educate the public about the signs, symptoms, treatment, and how to prevent Lyme disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **May 2026** as **Lyme Disease Awareness Month** and urge everyone to become aware of the steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of tick-borne illnesses.




Monique Ashton, Mayor


Kate Fulton, Councilmember


Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember


Barry Jackson, Councilmember


Marissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myles, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

May 4, 2026