Did you know that a single tick can make you sick and that ticks can transmit an illness called Lyme disease to you and to your pets? In this brief, online session, get ready to learn tons about ticks, the diseases that they carry, and how you can protect yourself and your pets from tick-borne illnesses. Ready? Let's go.
Navigating the Course

Let’s get started!

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PO Box 1438 Jackson, NJ 08527
www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org
Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Today’s topic

Over the next half-hour, we will review the following topic:

- Testing and treatment for Lyme disease

Other modules available in this series are:

- Module 1: What is Lyme disease?
- Module 2: Tick-er Tape Parade:
  What are ticks and what do they look like?
- Module 3: Keeping ticks at bay when you go out to play

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http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Testing and treatment for Lyme disease
Tests for Lyme Disease

If you think that you need to be tested for Lyme disease, remember that:

- There are blood tests for Lyme disease.
- Your doctor can give you a test.
- These are not always very accurate.
- Sometimes, a test will say that you do not have Lyme disease, even though you really do have it.

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How does the doctor know if you have Lyme disease?

During your exam, the doctor will:

- Ask if you have been in tick-infested areas
- Ask if you remember being bitten by something
- Examine you for signs and symptoms of Lyme disease
- Order one or more tests if appropriate

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Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease:

Common early symptoms include:

- Headaches
- Feeling very tired
- Aches
- Fever, chills, sweating
- Rashes at bite site

Let’s take a closer look at the last category: rashes at the bite site.

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Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease:

You have probably heard of the classic BULL’S EYE RASH, shown here, which appears on some people when they get bitten by an infected tick.

Pronunciation Guide:

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Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease:

Please remember:

- Not everybody gets a rash!
- Rash may not be a bull’s eye shape.
- It can look different on different people (color and texture may vary).
- You may also get several bull’s eye rashes on your body at the same time (not just at the bite site).
  This usually means that Lyme disease has progressed to a later stage.

Take a look at the various types of rashes shown on the next few slides.

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease:

Another bull’s eye rash.

Photo courtesy of Emilia Eiras, MD

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease:

Rash on a child’s ear, scalp and face.

Photo courtesy of Emilia Eiras, MD

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease:

A rash hidden on a child’s neck, at the hairline.

Photo courtesy of Gimiis Etroe, MD

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Other signs and symptoms to watch for:

Pain in your:
- Joints: Knees, elbows, wrists and jaw
- Hands / feet: “Pins and needles” feeling
- Neck and back
- Chest

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Other signs and symptoms to watch for:

Problems with your:

- **Eyes**: Including infections, trouble seeing or sensitivity to light
- **Ears**: Such as pain, sensitivity to noise, hearing loss, ringing in the ears
- **Skin**: Rash at the site of the tick bite or elsewhere

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Other signs and symptoms to watch for:

- Difficulty breathing & coughing
- Stomach problems
- Muscles twitching
- Problems talking
- Trouble sleeping
- Forgetfulness
- Seizure

Pronunciation Guide:

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Medicines to treat Lyme disease

Doctors typically prescribe antibiotics for patients diagnosed with Lyme disease or one of its co-infections.

These antibiotics are:
- Usually given as a pill or liquid
- Sometimes given intravenously (IV)
- Sometimes medicine in a shot (injection)
- Sometimes given as combinations of these methods

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
If a tick bites you...

- Prompt removal of the tick is most important! If possible, have a responsible adult remove the attached tick.
- If you feel sick after a tick bite, tell a responsible adult immediately that you are feeling ill and need help. Do not wait!
- If you see a doctor after a tick bite, tell him or her about everything that you feel that you do not usually feel, for example, if you develop problems with your eyes, ears, feet, hands, skin, or if you feel any pain.

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
If you develop Lyme disease...

- Treatment may make you feel worse at first and better later. This is called a JARISCH-HERXHEIMER REACTION or HERX for short.

- Early treatment with the right medicine can prevent you from getting more serious symptoms.

Pronunciation Guide:

http://lymediseaseassociation.org/ledu/pron_guide.html
Also, if you or a friend get Lyme disease, remember that the Lyme Disease Association offers a book written especially for young people like you. Have your parent visit the LDA Website, www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org, to check it out!
You have reached the end of Module 4: Testing and treatment for Lyme disease
If you have questions about any of the topics that we’ve discussed today, the LDA website, www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org, offers lots of information so that you and your family can learn more!

In the meantime, be well and stay safe!
THANKS!

The Lyme Disease Association (LDA) thanks the following individuals for their help with various aspects of this project:

James Occi, MA, MS; Ray Stricker, MD; Pat Smith, BA, and D.L. Singfield of Lytaker. LDA especially thanks the Clear Run Intermediate School in Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania and teachers Joanne Bohrman and Marlena Middleton who initiated the LDA presentation to the 6th and 7th graders in February 2007, which precipitated development of this project.

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