



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 “bulls-eye” rash;

WHEREAS, Lyme disease infects approximately more than 300,000 people annually in the United States, yet now the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes this number is closer to 476,000, bases on insurance data, and since testing for Lyme disease remains only 50% accurate, with the average patient going two or more years before getting a proper diagnosis;

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 2025**, 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.



 Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 Monique Ashton, Mayor
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

May 12, 2025