



State of New Jersey  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE  
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To: New Jersey Public School Superintendents  
From: Communicable Disease Service  
Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program  
New Jersey Department of Health  
Date: July 29, 2022  
Subject: Tick-borne Disease Education in Schools

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) collaborates with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to improve school-based tickborne disease education. New Jersey statute ([Title 18A:35-5.1](#)) requires that Lyme disease prevention be included within the public school health curriculum. Furthermore, a new Senate Bill ([No. 2463](#)) aims to incorporate other tick-borne diseases, tick habitat, recommended attire and repellent to help protect against ticks, how to perform tick checks, proper techniques for tick removal, and symptoms an individual may experience after receiving a tick bite, into the curriculum. While NJDOE establishes state curriculum standards, curriculum development is decentralized at the school district and/or school level.

In 2019 NJDOH developed a Tick-borne Disease Education Toolkit available online at [www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/vectorborne.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/vectorborne.shtml). Toolkit materials include age-appropriate PowerPoint presentations with script, student handouts, activity sheets, quiz, parent letters, tick check calendar, and a teacher guide with learning objectives and suggested activities. All topics mentioned in the new Senate Bill are addressed in the toolkit and we encourage schools to use these materials when developing or updating their tickborne disease curricula.

**NJDOH is also looking for feedback regarding the Tick-borne Disease Education Toolkit. Please respond to a brief survey by August 19, 2022:**  
<http://healthsurveys.nj.gov/NoviSurvey/n/tickborne.aspx>.

As we begin to prepare for the upcoming school year, it is a good opportunity to remind people of all ages about the importance of the identification, prevention, and treatment of Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases. In New Jersey, there are many tickborne diseases that affect residents, including Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Powassan, and Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis. Information on preventing tickborne diseases is available online at the NJDOH website mentioned above.

The mission of the NJDOH Communicable Disease Service is to prevent communicable disease among all citizens of New Jersey and to promote the knowledge and use of healthy lifestyles to maximize the health and well being of New Jerseyans. Thank you for helping us achieve this task!

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