

STOP LYME: Information for Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Identification and Patient Care

A REFERENCE HANDBOOK

The “Stop Lyme” project is an initiative of Nahant Public Library in partnership with Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Town of Nahant, and health librarian Margot Malachowski. The project received federal funding from the National Library of Medicine, a division of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Cooperative Agreement Number UG4LM012347 with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester.

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STOP LYME

INTRODUCTION

Lyme disease has been described as a public health crisis in Massachusetts (1), with as many as 50,000 new cases in Massachusetts every year estimated by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (2, 3). Massachusetts has the third-highest incidence of Lyme disease in the United States (4). In addition, Massachusetts ticks contain additional pathogens that can be just as or more severe than Lyme itself (5). The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Mass DPH) has done enormous work to assemble information and statistics about these tick-borne diseases. Information from Mass DPH and other trusted institutions make up the bulk of this information packet.

The need to raise awareness about tick-borne disease continues to be essential to eradicating it, especially in Massachusetts, where case counts are still among the highest in the nation. Science on the subject is still unfolding, making up-to-date information crucial to making good decisions about disease treatment and prevention. This binder is an attempt, with the help of many, to provide such information in one place, and to fulfill the mission of Nahant Public Library (6).

1. Linsky, D.P. et al (2011). Lyme Disease: A Public Health Crisis. A report issued by the House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight. Retrieved September 20, 2016 from <https://malegislature.gov/Content/Documents/Committees/h46/LymeDiseaseReport.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). Lyme Disease Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), How many people get Lyme disease? Retrieved September 20, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/fag/index.html#cases>
3. Brown, C.M. et al (2013). Lyme disease in Massachusetts: A Report Issued by the Special Commission to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Incidence and Impacts of Lyme Disease, p.7. Retrieved September 20, 2016 from <https://malegislature.gov/Content/Documents/Committees/H46/LymeDiseaseCommissionFinalReport-2013-02-28.pdf>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2015). Reported cases of Lyme disease by state or locality, 2005-2014. Retrieved September 20, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/tables.html>
5. Massachusetts Department of Health (2009). Tickborne Diseases in Massachusetts, A Physician's Reference Manual. Retrieved September 20, 2016 from <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/lyme/tickborne-diseases-physician-manual.pdf>
6. Nahant Public Library Long Range Plan FY2015-FY2019, p.4 Mission Statement: "The Nahant Public Library, an essential public institution, strives to serve as an accessible and responsive information and literary center for all residents of the Nahant community and beyond."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/COPYRIGHT/DISCLAIMER

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Lyme Connection

Massachusetts Library System

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