



# Ticks and Lyme Disease



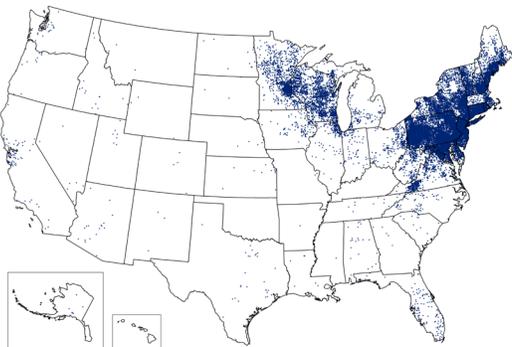
## Children and Lyme disease



### Reasons to suspect that your child might have Lyme disease:

- You live in or have recently visited an area where Lyme disease is common.
- You recently found a tick on your child (although these very small ticks can go unnoticed).
- Your child has rash, fever, chills, exhaustion, joint swelling, muscle pain, new heart palpitations, or drooping on one or both sides of the face.

Reported Cases of Lyme Disease - United States, 2017



1 dot placed randomly within county of residence for each confirmed case

If you suspect that your child might have Lyme disease, please see his or her healthcare provider.

### Diagnosing Lyme disease

Your child's healthcare provider may treat him or her for Lyme disease based on symptoms or may decide to run blood tests. Blood testing for Lyme disease is more accurate 4-6 weeks after the start of the illness than in the first days or weeks of illness.

### Treating Lyme disease

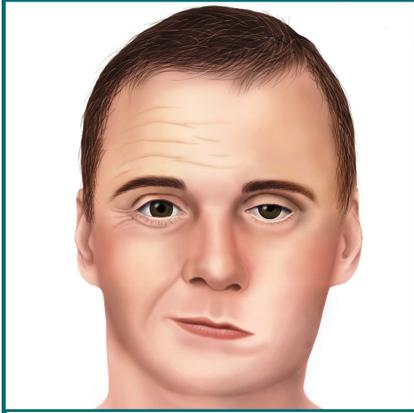
People treated with antibiotics in the early stages of Lyme disease usually recover rapidly and completely.

Children who are diagnosed with Lyme disease should be treated with antibiotics promptly. A typical treatment course for children of all ages with early Lyme disease would be 10 – 21 days of doxycycline, amoxicillin, or cefuroxime.

Treating early in the course of disease is important to prevent rare complications of Lyme disease, such as joint, heart, or nerve problems.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



*Facial paralysis.*



*Bull's eye rash.*



*Swollen knee.*

## Looking ahead to recovery

Make sure your child rests and takes antibiotics as prescribed. Recovery may take several weeks or longer.

Some people wonder if there is a test to confirm that they or their family members are cured, but no such test exists. Retesting for Lyme disease is not recommended because blood tests might be positive for months or years after treatment. A positive test doesn't mean that your child is still infected. It simply means that his or her immune system remembers the infection.

Your child can get Lyme disease again if bitten by another infected tick, so protect him or her from tick bites.

## Protect yourself and your family

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions.
- Wear clothing treated with permethrin.
- Shower as soon as possible after spending time outdoors.
- Check for ticks daily. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair, and in the groin.
- Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed.



**For more information see [www.cdc.gov/Lyme](http://www.cdc.gov/Lyme) and [www.cdc.gov/Ticks](http://www.cdc.gov/Ticks)**