Little Tick Big Problem

Another Year of Lyme Disease Prevention in Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Service Towns
Lyme Disease Incidence

Massachusetts:

- MA Incidence is 51 people per 100,000 over the last ten years.
- Only New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, Maine, and Delaware have higher rates
- CDC estimates 300,000 people per year diagnosed

CPHS towns:

- CPHS incidence is 30 Lyme cases between January 2014 and present (includes confirmed and suspected)
- 43% of all MAVEN reported diseases in the district
- Deerfield: 12, 32%
- Conway: 10, 27%
- Buckland: 8, 22%
- Charlemont: 2, 5%
- Gill: 1, 3%
- Heath: 1, 3%
- Leyden Shelburne: 2, 5%
Our goals:

• Increase Lyme awareness in our 10 communities

• Increase knowledge about personal prevention measures

• Encourage tick testing
Since last fall we have...

• Run bus advertisements with the FRTA

• Run billboards throughout Greenfield

• Ordered 50 additional trail signs specifically for schools, parks, and other places our children frequent

• Partnered with 32 Massachusetts towns to form the Tick-Borne Disease Network
Tick-Borne Disease Network

FREE TICK TESTING

Governor’s Community Innovation Challenge Awards $111K for State’s First ‘Tick-Borne Disease Network’
What we found...

• Over 200 ticks submitted from CPHS towns!

• 22% of these were infected with Lyme

• In some towns, infection rates were higher (40% in Shelburne!)
Community Response to the Tick-Borne Disease Network...

“Our daughter became very ill in the weeks following the tick bite, and if it had not been for the positive test results, we would not have been able to treat her as quickly, and fear that she would have continued to get worse. Thank you so much for providing this testing service!” - Leyden
Behavior Change Associated with Participation in the Tick-Borne Disease Network
"Our town (Charlemont/Hawley) seems on top of this. I picked up the brochure at our public library."

I was already tick-checking daily and I continued to. I live on a farm and if I chose to use tick repellent, I'd probably poison myself, I'd need so much. But it was the only apparent tick I got this season-hurrah! Thanks for your work. I felt SO comforted by the fact that I could send the tick in for analysis. It makes all the difference!" - Hawle

"Our school and town does an awesome job of educating and keeping us informed about ticks."

- Conway

"We have information about ticks on our town web site. We also may have tick awareness information in schools. Our town nurse has published articles about ticks in our town newspaper and our town coordinator has emailed many townspeople about the tick-testing program. Signs about tick at our fairgrounds and help designing ways to keep tick populations down there would be helpful."

- Charlemont
Next Steps…

- Continued participation in the Tick-Borne Disease Network (tick tests offered in our towns at a reduced cost) pending grant funding
- Continue collecting information on tick infection rates
- Meet with health care providers to encourage referrals to tick testing
- Outreach through veterinarians