



LYME DISEASE IN SOUTH CAROLINA



DON'T LET TICKS TAKE HOLD

4.1

AGE-ADJUSTED RATE PER 100,000

Confirmed Lyme Disease
Cases in South Carolina¹

South Carolina and all associated regions saw significant rate increases from 2015-2024, with SC up 115.8% from 1.9 to 4.1.

Most cases occur in the summer months, most often June-August, but infection is possible year-round.

White residents, adults 65+, and males each show the highest confirmed Lyme Disease rates in South Carolina.

IF YOU ARE BITTEN BY A TICK:³

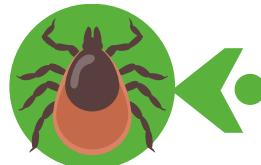


Transmission of the bacteria most often occurs after 36 hours of tick attachment; prompt removal of any attached ticks will help prevent infection. To remove a tick, follow these steps:

1. Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure; do not twist. If you cannot remove the mouth easily with tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

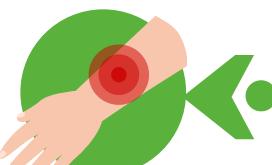
Do not use a lighter to burn off the tick. You want to remove the tick as quickly as possible.

After removing the tick, the area needs to be cleaned with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Dispose of the live tick by putting it in rubbing alcohol, sealing it in a bag, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.



WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?²

Lyme Disease is the most common tickborne disease and is a bacterial disease transmitted by Western Blacklegged ticks and Blacklegged ticks (deer ticks). Lyme Disease cannot be transmitted from person to person. It is most common in the spring and summer months.



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS²

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a defining skin rash called erythema migrans (bulls-eye rash).



DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT²

Most people can be successfully treated with antibiotics if diagnosed in the early stages. If the disease is diagnosed months after infection, the patient may require prolonged oral or intravenous antibiotic treatment.



PREVENTION³

- Using an insect repellent that contains DEET should also help reduce the risk of a tick attaching itself.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and tuck pant legs into your socks.
- Check for ticks daily. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair, and in the groin.

CONTACT US

Email: SCTracking@dph.sc.gov

Web: dph.sc.gov/sctracks

