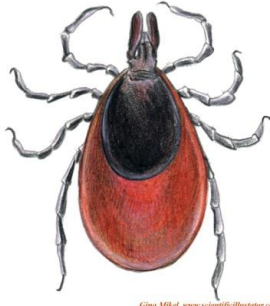


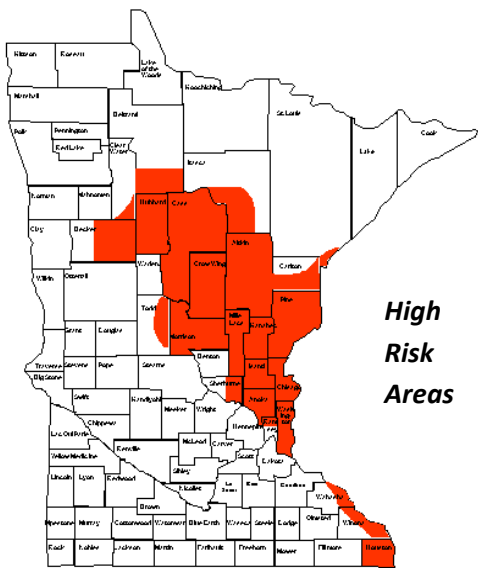
Lyme Disease in Minnesota



Deer tick



Lyme disease is the fastest growing vector-borne disease in Minnesota. The same ticks that carry Lyme disease may also carry **Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis**, which can complicate diagnosis and treatment.



- 1282 cases of Lyme disease in Minnesota were reported in 2008
- The CDC recognizes that Lyme disease is under-reported, perhaps by a factor of 10. Thus, Minnesota potentially had 12,820 new cases in 2008
- **Annual cases in Minnesota have increased 450% in the past 10 years**
- Minnesota ranks 8th in the nation for Lyme disease
- Many patients have to travel out of state for treatment

The Connecticut Attorney General (AG) investigated the **Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)** over its 2006 Lyme disease guidelines which severely restrict the definition of Lyme disease and treatment options.

The AG found the IDSA guidelines development process seriously flawed:

- Panel members had financial conflicts of interest
- Lyme disease experts with opposing views were prohibited from participating
- Relevant scientific information was omitted

The International Lyme and Associated Disease Society (ILADS) has published evidence-based guidelines that include a broader definition of Lyme disease and expanded treatment options.

Most physicians in Minnesota, including those who perform case reviews on behalf of the medical board, follow the IDSA guidelines, unaware of the problems uncovered by the AG. Many physicians are also unaware of the ILADS guidelines, which may explain why some patients are undiagnosed or under-treated and why some physicians fear the possibility of medical board sanctions.

Senators Marty and Vandever are sponsoring SF 1631 which allows physicians to use all of their training to individualize care for patients with Lyme disease. **Representatives Ward and Dettmer** are sponsoring the companion bill, HF 2597; with **Representatives Doty, Loeffler, Obermueller, Sailer and Persell** co-sponsoring.

Please join your colleagues in support of this important Legislation.