

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a very serious infection caused by bacteria, strains and species of which scientists have identified more in the southeastern United States than in any other region; and

WHEREAS, ticks, the vector of Lyme disease, are carried by many different animals and therefore frequently encountered by people who live in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, many people who are infected with Lyme disease do not remember being bitten by a tick, which can be as small as a poppy seed and hard to detect; improper methods of removing ticks are also dangerous and can actually increase the risk of being infected; and

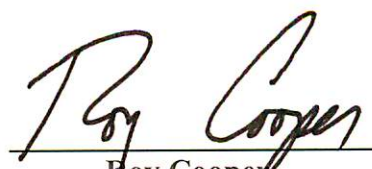
WHEREAS, some patients do not develop the characteristic rash which most often accompanies Lyme disease, and symptoms may not appear for months or even years following the initial infection; therefore, patients are often misdiagnosed with more commonly occurring conditions; and

WHEREAS, early recognition is imperative as prompt treatment and adequate antibiotic therapy in the early stage may cure Lyme disease and prevent serious complications; Lyme disease that remains untreated or is inadequately treated can affect the brain, heart, joints, and other organs, and can ultimately lead to death;

WHEREAS, citizens should know that testing for Lyme disease may be inaccurate, and with over a dozen tick-borne diseases in the southeastern United States, everyone is urged to take all tick bites seriously;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2017, as **“LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH”** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-seventh day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.