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HEALTH ADVISORY (44)

2011 TICKBORNE DISEASE SEASON ADVISORY

TO: All West Virginia Healthcare Providers

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WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

DATE: March 7, 2011

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

Tickborne diseases occur annually in West Virginia with most cases developing between April and September. Persons with tickborne disease often have fever, muscle and joint aches, rash and a history of exposure to tick habitat. Many patients, however, will not recall being bitten by a tick. Please be vigilant for such cases and ensure appropriate testing is completed.

Serologic testing is the preferred diagnostic method for tickborne diseases and is available for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and Lyme disease **at no cost** for clinically appropriate specimens. For information on RMSF testing, contact the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) at (800)-423-1271. For information on Lyme disease testing, contact the Bureau for Public Health's Office of Laboratory Services at (304)-558-3530 or visit <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/serology/index.cfm>. For more information about tickborne diseases, the following web-based CME are available:

- <http://www.cdnetwork.org/NewCDN/LibraryView.aspx?ID=cdn552a> (General)
- <http://lymecourse.idsociety.org/> (Lyme disease-specific)

Lyme disease is the most common tickborne disease in the state with 161 cases (provisional) reported in 2010. Local health departments verify cases for surveillance and provide education about tickborne disease prevention. Therefore timely reporting of cases (as is required by 64CSR7) is important for surveillance and prevention efforts.

For more information about infectious diseases (including tickborne diseases) in West Virginia, please visit <http://www.wvidep.org>. You may also contact the local health department or call DIDE toll-free in West Virginia at (800)-423-1271. Thank you!

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Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

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