



# Lyme Disease

[Lyme disease](#) refers to infection caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. [Typical symptoms](#) include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash that may have the appearance of a bulls-eye.



If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks.

Lyme disease is most commonly found in the northeastern United States, but there are cases in other parts of the country, including California. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, [removing ticks promptly](#), applying pesticides, and reducing tick habitat.