Lyme Disease

**Cause:** Spiral shaped bacterium (spirochete) *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

**Illness and treatment:** The classic symptom is erythema migrans, a target-shaped (bull’s-eye) rash. Rash occurs in approximately 70-80% of infected persons and begins at the site of a tick bite after a delay of 3-30 days (average is about 7 days). Rash gradually expands over a period of several days, and can reach up to 12 inches (30cm) across. Systemic symptoms, such as fatigue, headache, fever, and muscle and joint aches also typically occur in early illness. Joint, nervous system, or heart complications can occur.

**Sources:** Only certain hard tick species transmit Lyme disease from the rodent or deer reservoirs. In the Pacific coastal United States, the western blacklegged (or deer) tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) is the primary vector. These ticks live in heavily-forested or dense brushy areas, not open areas. Ticks that transmit Lyme disease can take 3 or more days to feed fully. If the tick is infected, the chances of transmission increases with time, from 0% at 24 hours, 12% at 48 hours, 79% at 72 hours and 94% at 96 hours.

**Prevention:** During outdoor activities in endemic areas avoid tick bites by wearing appropriate clothing and using repellents. Check the body for ticks. Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on you. If bitten by a tick, be alert for rash, fever, facial paralysis, or joint pain over the next month. If symptoms develop, see a health care provider.

**Recent Washington trends:** Each year there are 7 to 23 reports. Most Washington cases are the result of a tick bite out-of-state. The few endemic cases have tick exposures predominantly on the west side of the Cascade Mountains, reflecting the distribution of the *Ixodes* ticks.

2012: 15 cases were reported; only 2 had in-state exposures, which were likely in Pacific and Thurston counties.

Extensive tick collection in Kittitas, Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties were conducted for 3 years. These ticks were tested for Lyme disease. None of the ticks were infected.

In Washington State the only counties with ticks infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, were Clallam and Mason Counties.

http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html

Western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*)
Multistate Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Cotham Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Bearded Dragons

Posted April 23, 2014 4:45 PM ET

**Current Case Count Map**

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Cotham, by State*

*\(n=132\) for whom information was reported as of April 21, 2014

A total of 132 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Cotham have been reported from 31 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arizona (4), California (21), Colorado (2), Florida (3), Georgia (1), Idaho (3), Illinois (6), Kansas (6), Kentucky (4), Maryland (3), Massachusetts (1), Michigan (5), Minnesota (3), Missouri (7), Nebraska (1), Nevada (3), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (3), New York (10), North Carolina (2), Ohio (1), Oregon (2), Pennsylvania (5), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (1), Tennessee (5), Texas (6), Utah (3), Virginia (3), Washington (4), and Wisconsin (12).

»Read the full Outbreak Investigation«

**Other Salmonella Outbreaks:**

- Human *Salmonella* Cases Linked to Backyard Chicken Flocks
- Outbreak of *Salmonella* Heidelberg Infections Linked to Tyson Brand Mechanically Separated Chicken at a Correctional Facility (Final Update)
- Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Stanley Infections Linked to Raw Cashew Cheese