

PRESS RELEASE: Tick-Borne Disease Presentation

Tick-Borne Disease Talk
March 11, 2014

In 2013, Lyme Disease was the top infectious disease reported in Bedford - but it is preventable! If you want to learn how to keep your family and pets safe from tick-borne illnesses like Lyme Disease, take action now to learn about how you can most effectively prevent it. Professor Sam Telford III, ScD, a leading researcher in tick-borne diseases from Tufts University, will give an important educational presentation on "The Ecology and Management of Tick-Borne Diseases" on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at Bedford Town Hall, Multi-Purpose Room, 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA. The Tick Talk begins at 7 PM but doors open at 6:30 PM and you are invited to come early to browse through our displays and information tables. Attendees will be entered to win door prizes and refreshments will be provided. If you plan to attend, please reply to rsvpbedfordboh@bedfordma.gov or (781) 275-6507.

Tick-borne diseases (Lyme, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis) are now endemic in Bedford and other communities in Middlesex County. Under reporting of cases continues to be a problem. The new estimates suggest that the total number of people who actually contract Lyme Disease each year is roughly 10 times higher than the number of cases reported. Based on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, Massachusetts ranks in the top five of reported Lyme Diseases cases in the United States, behind only New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Delaware. With proper prevention, it is possible to enjoy the outdoors and reduce the risk of contracting a tick-borne disease. Early identification and treatment can prevent serious complications.

Dr. Telford will provide specific guidance as to how you can develop strategies, both personal and environmental, to prevent ticks from propagating in your yard and getting on you. Key topics discussed will include the following: where a person or pet is at risk and the likelihood of tick encounters; disease associations with different types of ticks; reducing tick encounter in your home environment; protecting pets from ticks; the role of wildlife in propagating ticks and disseminating disease agent; the concurrence of more than one disease agent in a single tick; advancements in scientific research with regard to vaccine and what to expect in Bedford in the coming years.

Are you concerned about how to effectively remove a deer tick? As part of this evening's presentation, a short tutorial, filmed locally, will explain how you can best remove a deer tick from your body or on your pet.

The presentation is sponsored by the Bedford Board of Health. If you plan to attend the Tick Talk, please reply to rsvpbedfordboh@bedfordma.gov or (781) 275-6507.