

Proposed Proclamation Language for Colorado Counties/Cities/Towns:

WHEREAS outdoor activities including walking, hiking, camping, backpacking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, golfing, gardening, ranching, wood splitting, natural resource management of our vast public lands, and travel for outdoor recreation pursuits puts {County/City/Town} residents in closer contact with grassy and wooded areas that may be inhabited or infested by ticks which are carried by both wild and domestic animals; and

WHEREAS tick bites can transmit serious and potentially fatal diseases such as Lyme disease (CDC estimated over 500,000 new cases annually), Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and other tick-borne illnesses that may result initially as fever, rash, or flu-like symptoms and other symptoms; and can also result in conditions such as tick paralysis or alpha-gal meat allergy; and

WHEREAS Lyme and other tick-borne diseases/conditions may affect the brain, heart, eyes, joints, and other body organs, and may mimic many other diseases making diagnosis more difficult; and

WHEREAS when Lyme and tick-borne diseases are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, it may result in severe illness, disability, or death; and the CDC has just added (2024) Lyme disease to the list of disease agents that have been linked to chronic symptoms; and

WHEREAS the rate of infection in Colorado may be underreported for all tick-borne diseases due to the difficulty of diagnosis, and lack of reporting; and according to Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, "Lyme disease investigations were on hold due to limited capacity during the pandemic; "and

WHEREAS evaluation of veterinary data demonstrates an annually increasing occurrence of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in Colorado dogs; and

WHEREAS support group participation for Colorado patients afflicted by Lyme and other tick-borne diseases is growing annually; and

WHEREAS in response to this growing problem and risk, US federal entities developed the National Public Health Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in People (2024) to address the rising public health threat of VBDs; and

WHEREAS the best protection against tick-borne diseases is prevention and education, use of insect repellent, performance of frequent tick checks, showering immediately upon returning home from outdoor pursuits, proper removal of embedded ticks, prompt diagnosis, and adequate treatment.

Therefore, I, {Government Official's Name}, {Government Official's Title} of {County/City/Town}, do hereby proclaim, forever after, May {YEAR}, as

LYME & OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH