



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release about an Upcoming Lecture: Ticks, Lyme disease and Your Health

To: All Local Media Outlets

From: Robert Bracey Director, Newburyport Health Department

Re: Upcoming Press Conference on Diseases Spread by Ticks

Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tickborne disease in Massachusetts. In 2009, almost 4,028 confirmed cases were reported in Massachusetts. The prevalence of Lyme disease in Essex County is third highest of all counties in Massachusetts. Last year, Lyme and tick borne diseases comprised over 50% of all reportable infectious diseases in Newburyport. The diseases spread by deer ticks, Lyme disease, babesiosis and anaplasmosis, can become serious if not recognized and treated early.

Due to the increase in tickborne diseases, including Lyme disease, the Newburyport Board of Health has scheduled an informational lecture on June 1, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Newburyport Public Library. Speakers at the conference will include Esteban L. Cuebas-Incle, PhD, an entomologist for the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources, Dr. Sue Doyle, Naturopathic Physician and Jennifer Elmore, a freelance writer diagnosed and living with Lyme disease.

. Topics that will be covered by our speakers include:

- why ticks are now a major public health concern
- how to recognize and control for ticks on you & your property
- causes and symptoms of Lyme disease
- effective strategies to prevent Lyme disease
- treatment modalities