

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** Lyme disease, which is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick, is the most reported tickborne disease in West Virginia, with over 3,242 cases reported in 2023 according to the CDC; and
- Whereas,** ticks transmit not only Lyme Disease, but also other serious diseases, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Tularemia; and
- Whereas,** Lyme disease and other diseases transmitted by ticks are best prevented by wearing protective clothing, applying appropriate repellents, checking thoroughly for ticks, showering after being in tick habitats, avoiding tick-infested areas, keeping ticks off of pets, and managing the environment to minimize tick abundance; and
- Whereas,** in 2023, the Centers for Disease Control reported over 89,000 cases of Lyme disease, with other estimates suggesting that nearly half a million people, approximately 476,000, are diagnosed and treated for the condition in the United States; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Department of Health joins local health departments, health care providers, veterinarians, community organizations, and advocacy groups to raise awareness about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, and to encourage West Virginia residents to protect themselves and their children from diseases.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2026* as:

## *Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



*Patrick Morrisey*  
Governor

*By the Governor:*



*Kris Warner*  
Secretary of State