



Onondaga County Legislature

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 14, 2021 JULIE ABBOTT-KENAN, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Dr. Chase, Ms. Cody, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kinne

ALSO ATTENDING: Dr. Kelly, Ms. Kuhn; Ms. Velasco, Ms. Rooney, Ms. Scuderi, Mr. Glazier, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Gupta, Ms. Vilardi, Mr. DeSantis

Chair Abbott-Kenan called the meeting to order at 10:37 p.m. *A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Ms. Cody to waive the reading of the minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Cody, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **ADULT & LONG TERM CARE:** Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive, Human Services
 - a. Confirming Appointment of Joanne Spoto Decker as the Commissioner of Adult and Long Term Care Services (Joanne Spoto Decker)

Ms. Rooney:

- Important to look within Onondaga County when making appointments– natural selection – helps with constituent services – been with Onondaga County (“OC”) since 1990 – so proud to have her serve in this capacity – Joanne proud to work despite her disability - proud to appoint her on behalf of the County Executive

A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. **CENTRAL NEW YORK LYME & TICK-BORNE DISEASE ALLIANCE:** Royale Scuderi, Executive Director
 - a. INFORMATIONAL: Lyme Disease

Ms. Scuderi:

- This is a portion of the presentation that is given publically

Learning Objectives

- Tick identification, habitat, hosts & lifecycle
- Prevention
- Tick removal
- Lyme disease signs & symptoms
- Data
- Other TBD
- Testing



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- Black legged deer tick – some still don't know what a tick is – helpful because confused with dog ticks

BLACKLEGGED/DEER TICK

LARVAL TICKS MAY BE A THREAT AFTER ALL

Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



**Adult
female**



**Adult
male**



Nymph



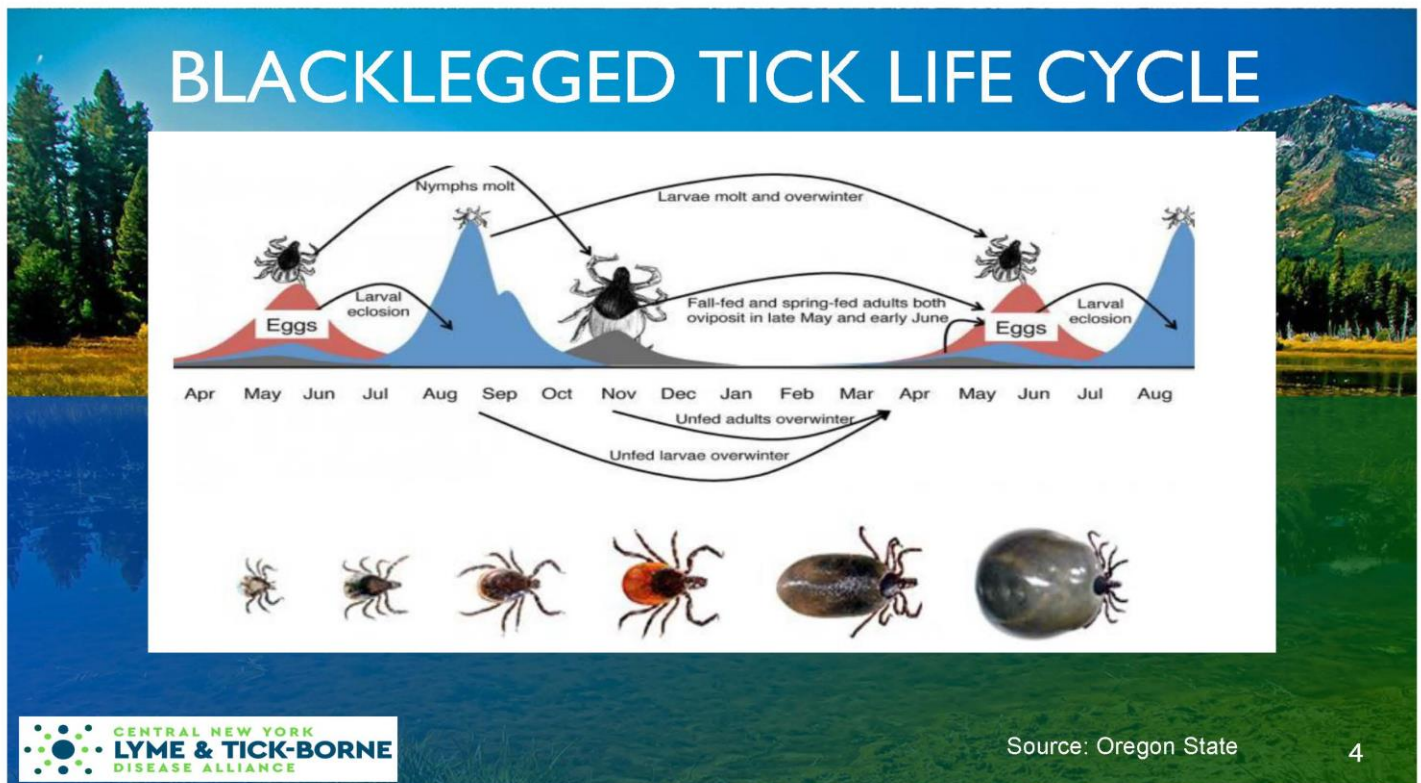
Larva

Image courtesy CDC



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- Life cycle about 2 years – they can feed at any stage – do and can infect at any stage – lay 5,000 eggs



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- Illustrates how small they are making it hard for people to see
- A lot of misconceptions about where the ticks are and where you could be exposed – popular spot under leaves, in city parks, on back lawns – myth if you live in the city you are not exposed
- Chickens are not a good tick control measure – ticks love chickens – mice and squirrels are the carriers more so than deer
- Encourage long pants, long sleeves – not practical but stay on trails and be aware
- Check for ticks – to include on your pets
- Properly removal grab gently as close to the skin as possible and it will release its jaws

TICK REMOVAL







Remove the tick as soon as possible.

Step 1: Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as you can.

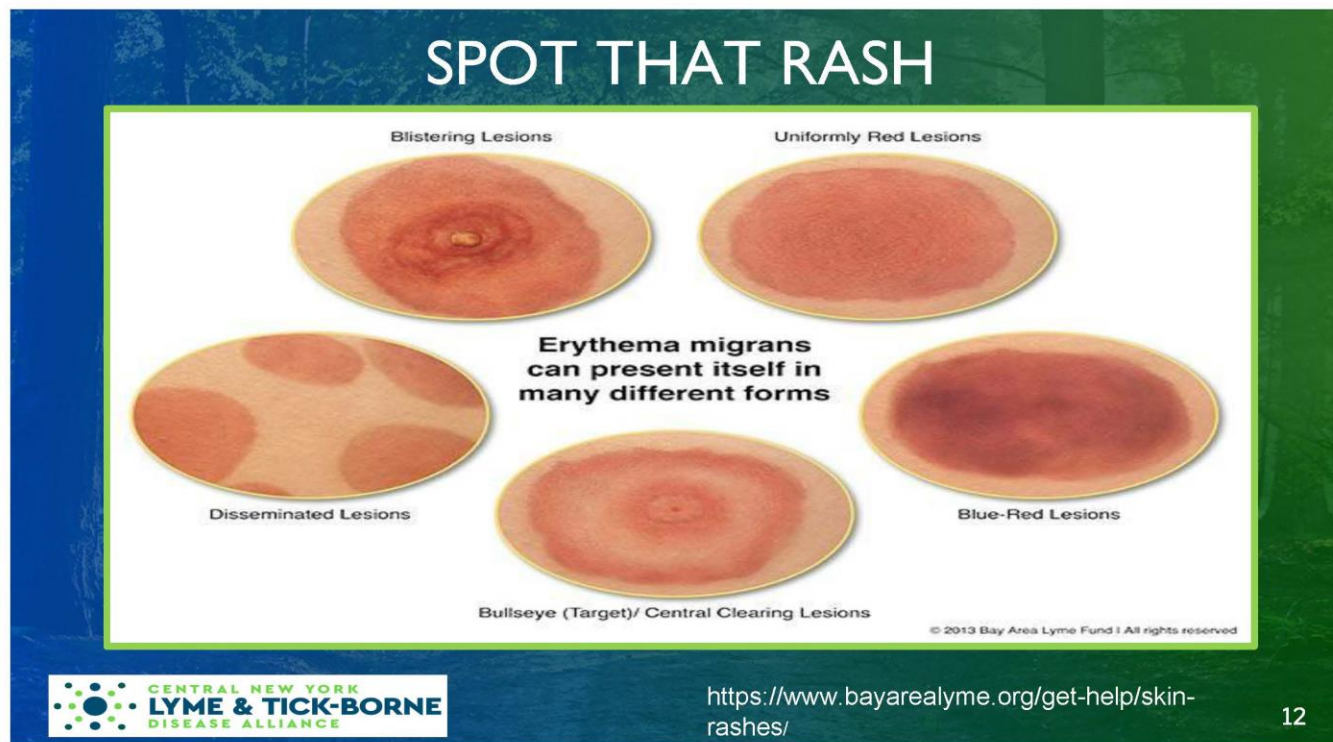
Steps 2 - 3: Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick.

Step 4: After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

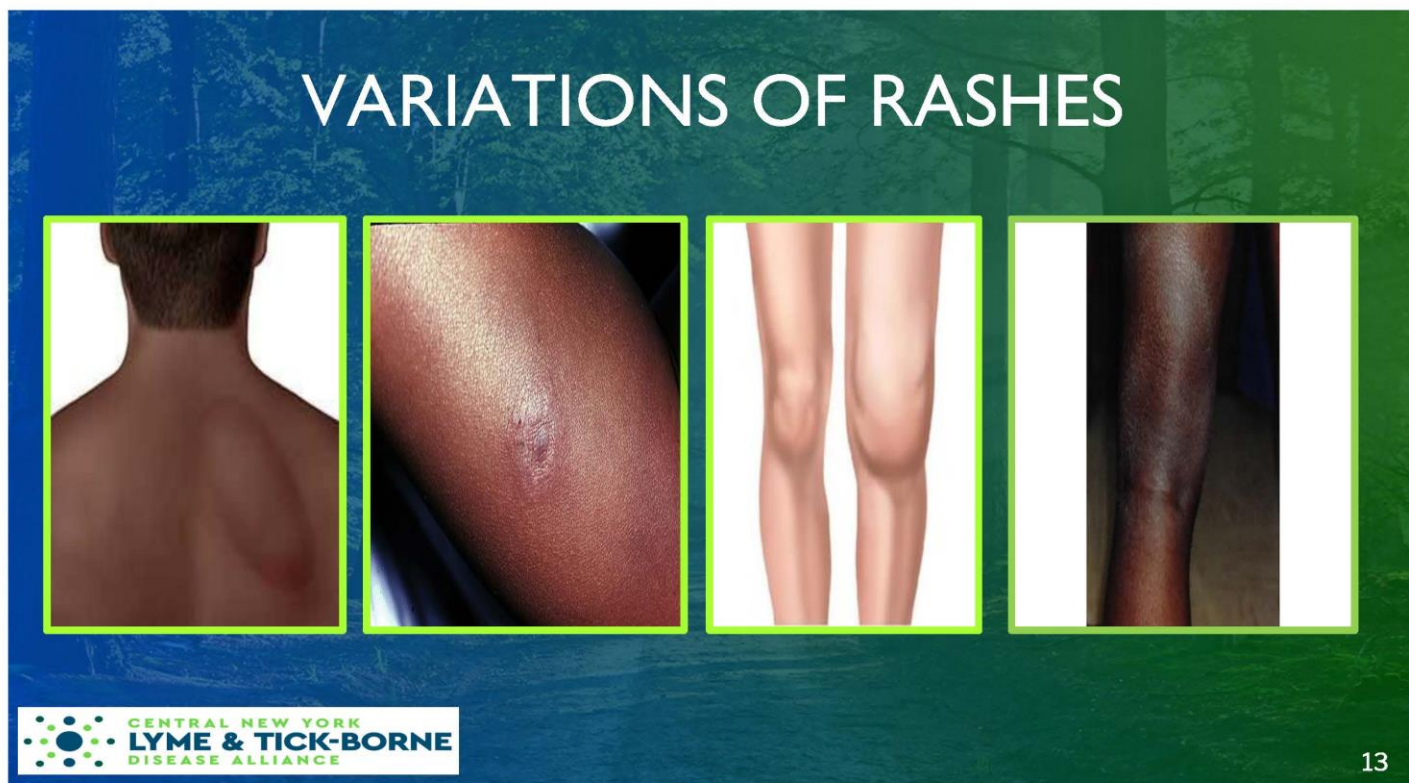
Source: CDC

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- Giving tick kits and instructions to summer camps
- Rarely looks like a bulls eye – 50% don't get a rash or not in a place where you can see it



- Darker skin makes it much harder to recognize – presents differently depending on skin



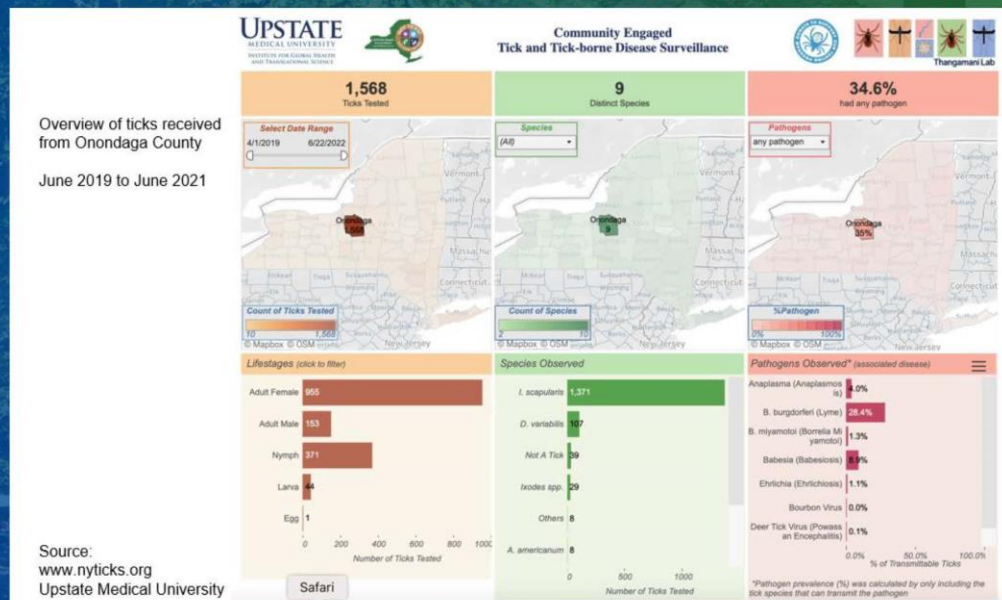
- Symptoms – theme is early lyme – late includes fatigue, - list of symptoms is huge – no typical symptoms

CHRONIC LYME SYMPTOMS: STAGGERING LIST

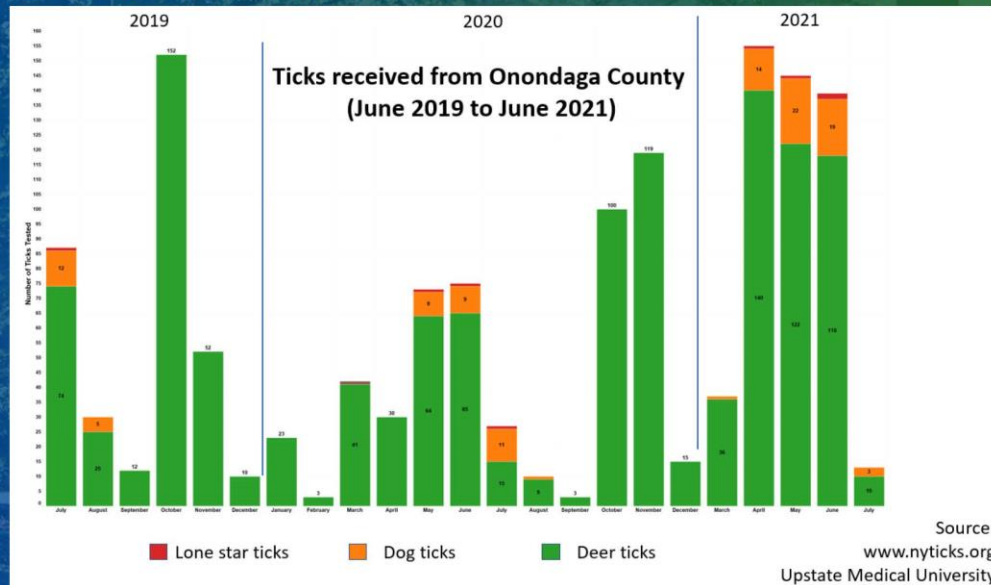
chest-pain fluctuations-of-symptoms nocturnal-exacerbation-of-symptoms
 flu-like-symptoms weakness-or-paralysis dizziness cerebral-vasculitis
 sound-sensitivity sleep-disturbances carpal-tunnel-syndrome panic-attacks
 drooping-eyelid heart-problems weight-problems sore-throats seizure difficulty-concentrating
 uveitis psychiatric-problems alopecia disorientation swollen-glands dementia
 vertigo excessive-sleep fatigue achiness facial-palsy involuntary-jerking
 shoulder-pain vibration-sensitivity shortness-of-breath iritis stroke anxiety
 confusion fainting seizures cramps stiff-joints tinnitus tendonitis rashes arthritis
 foot-pain itching memory-loss neck-pain nausea palpitations muscle-stiffness
 encephalitis/encephalopathy light-sensitivity bone-pain fever hoarseness paraesthesia
 numbness facial-pain bell's-palsy vomiting chills meningitis visual-disturbances
 skin-sensitivity shooting-pains tremors/shaking nerve-conduction-defects photophobia
 headache bladder-problems cough tingling-of-extremities bowel-problems
 psychosis dyslexia back-pain ocd forgetfulness pericarditis balance-problems
 hallucinations walking-difficulties/abnormalities depression insomnia
 joint-problems muscle-twitches retinal-vasculitis profuse-sweating
 stiff-neck conjunctivitis aca word-block tmj
 hair-loss trigger-finger tachycardia optic-neuropathy

- Main lingering effect is arthritis – family history but it is enunciated
- Everyone is at risk – all of upstate is growing exponentially - downstate is decreasing
- Becomes a societal norm – have tick repellent by the door – a way of life in downstate not the same in Upstate NY
- Upstate tick lab statistics - number of ticks coming in has greatly increased – good news people are more aware and sending in ticks

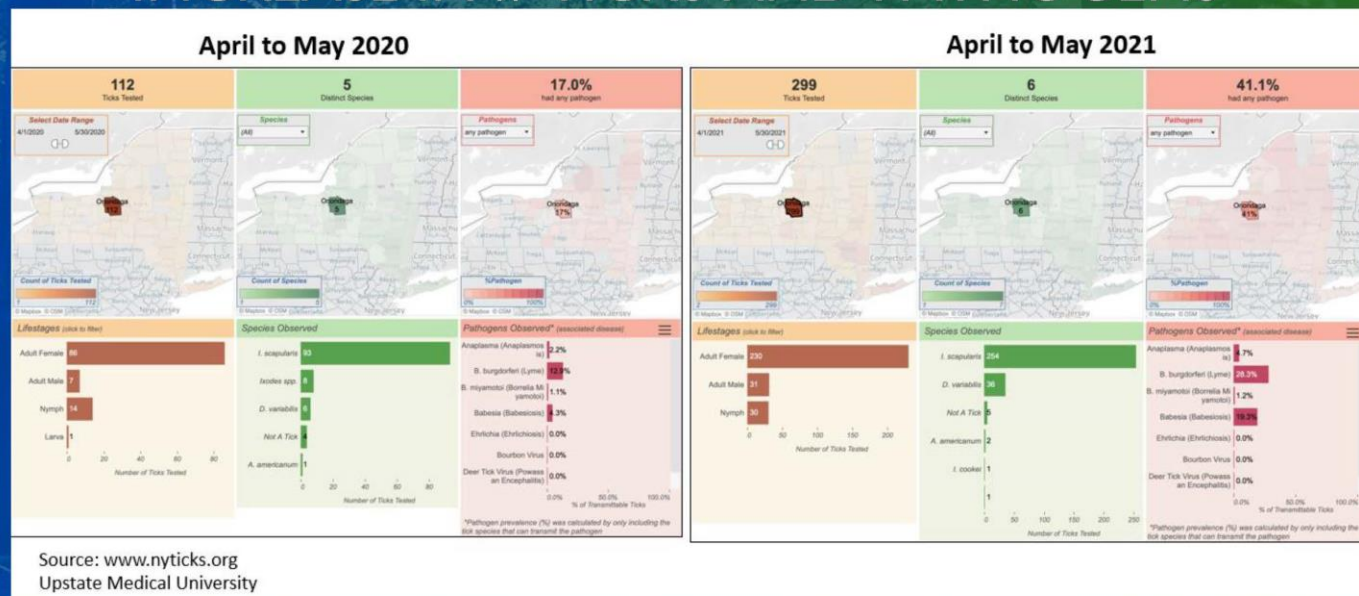
TICKS IN ONONDAGA COUNTY



SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE BY MONTH



INCREASE IN # TICKS AND PATHOGENS



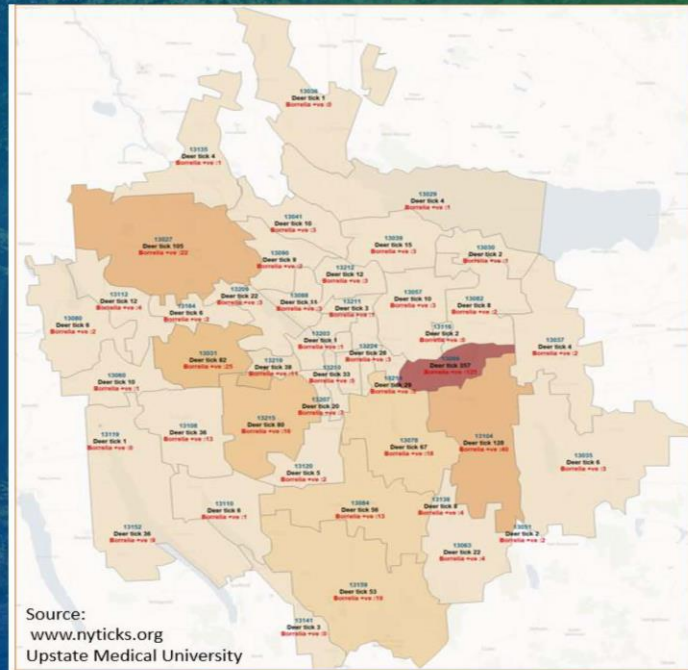
Dr. Kelly:

- Is there any way to self-report? – Ms. Scuderi answered nothing that is formally collected – there are a few apps that organizations are using for self-reporting – growing but often dismissed – getting better with new relationships – recognizing how under reported this is and recognizing the value of the data

Ms. Scuderi:

- Map shows Fayetteville Green Lakes in red – future will show more zip codes showing red

RISK MAP LYME DISEASE AGENT POSITIVE TICKS



- Data is collected and can drill down for any zip code
- Doctors reporting more cases – some are coming in very sick – getting worse and more patients with more symptoms – outcome could be much worse

GROWING THREAT OF OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Anaplasmosis is an intracellular bacterial infection spread by ticks.

Symptoms of Anaplasmosis may include:

- Fever and chills
- Severe headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Cough
- Extreme tiredness (fatigue)
- Rash (less common)
- Confusion

Severe complications can include respiratory failure, renal failure and secondary infections.

Babesiosis (Babesia) are malaria-like protozoans that cause infection spread by ticks.

Symptoms of Babesia may include:

- Intermittent fevers
- Fatigue and malaise
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscle pain/myalgia
- Nausea, vomiting or reduced appetite
- Depression (less common)

Some patients develop enlarged livers or spleens. Coinfection with Lyme disease or anaplasmosis may complicate the clinical presentation and predispose the patient to more severe disease.

Dr. Chase:

- Is there a blood test for these – Ms. Scuderi answered yes – but tricky depending on where you are in the stage – in general urgent care locations are not looking for lyme – difficulty didn't see tick, didn't have a rash – takes time to realize

Mr. Kinne:

- Where do you recommend going for treatment – Ms. Scuderi answered Infectious Disease Department at Upstate – Infectious Disease Doctors in general are more aware – hard for General Practitioner to have all the answers

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan:

- Difficult to get an appointment with Infectious Disease Doctors – takes weeks and sometimes months

Ms. Scuderi:

- Need a better test – test is 30 years old – don't recommend online tests – false negatives are due to timing and stage of the disease
- Answered Mrs. Abbott-Kenan's question regarding importance of public information or testing – feel every angle is important to include research, educate doctors and public, and combat ticks
- Find that educating the public – right now working on CME program for doctors in partnership with Upstate – takes time

“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A POUND OF CURE.”

- Wear repellent - Treat clothes with Permethrin and body with Picaridin or DEET.
- Wear light colored clothing & tuck pants into socks.
- Tick check frequently & remove tick quickly.
- Get medical advice promptly.

TICK PREVENTION CHECKLIST



Wear tall socks and pull over pants if possible.



Apply Tick Repellent. Use as labeled (Permethrin for clothes, ≥20% DEET or Picaridin for skin).



Wear light-colored clothing with sleeves.



Toss clothing in dryer on high heat for 15 mins. If washing, use hot water.



Shower or bathe as soon as you return inside.



Mow lawn regularly. Avoid tall grass in yards, parks and recreation areas and while hiking.

Central New York Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Alliance
131 West Seneca Street, Manlius, NY 13104 | info@cnylymealliance.org | cnylymealliance.org | 1-315-551-2551

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Mr. Kinne:

- Is there a problem in the rest of the world – Canada becoming serious as ticks move into the area – a tick may move 28 miles in its lifetime – Europe is bad – not sure of south America – they like moisture – easiest way to kill is to dry them out – they hibernate and survive winter – most other insects die in winter

Ms. Scuderi:

- Answered Mrs. Abbott-Kenan's question about summer camps – put together a tick kit – tweezers and information – approached YMCA Camp Evergreen as a pilot – doing sessions in youth groups – hearing the stories – children are at risk – children need to pressure parents – Oneida Tri-valley YMCA – intend to do all three counties for next year – Onondaga, Madison, and Oswego counties
- Answering Ms. Kuhn's question about the Lone star tick – very dangerous because they move to you – a bit more aggressive and carry nasty diseases – moving here from downstate

Ms. Cody:

- After getting bit how long do you have to seek treatment?

Ms. Scuderi:

- Seek treatment as soon as possible – a lot of doctors are giving single dose with no follow up – should be partnered with a follow up and testing – concern is that it gives people a false sense of safety
- In the first few months is best but at times it takes years – if you have more than one disease makes it much harder – COVID long haulers have worse symptoms
- Strong center in Albany well known infectious disease center – no one should have to drive outside NYS for treatment
- She was fortunate to have strong family, good insurance, job that was flexible when she was diagnosed

Questions?

Royale Scuderi

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CENTRAL NEW YORK
LYME & TICK-BORNE
DISEASE ALLIANCE

f t i y

3. **HEALTH:** Dr. Indu Gupta, M.D., M.P.H.
 - a. INFORMATIONAL: Public Health Update

Dr. Gupta:

- Thankful more people are talking about prevention – once diagnosed you have to pick up the pieces – state has been doing tick testing for years
- Upstate is regional expert so people come from all over
- Prevention messages are the key – send the provider alert – used in handling acute situations – State sends information and now tick center is another source
- Hard to diagnosis with blood tests – parasite is inside the blood cells – very easy to miss if smear wasn't processed properly – good part is more awareness
- COVID – 5-11 cases per day 35 cases per week in OC – throughout the state it was 2% in the beginning of May - more than 50% - 80% in high mountains – our area is high for vaccinations - 461k people in OC – 55% are vaccinated

- Vaccinated in OC - 65% for 12 years old and above - different zip codes vary - 70-90% for 70-79 years old - younger population feel invincible – myths they will get over it – seeing more long haulers – can't understand why they would put themselves at risk
- Still wears her mask when unsure – don't feel any pressure to not wear the mask – didn't get any colds last season
- Testing continues rolling less than 1% - planning school testing for the fall – NYS is giving grants to do school testing – putting the plans together to do \$11m in testing – good to have preparation – health of community is most important

Dr. Chase:

- Are you testing teachers, staff, or kids?

Dr. Gupta:

- Surveillance testing means everyone – putting together a plan – build infrastructure – do all public and private schools – includes a good incentive plan for those without vaccinations - they become the hot spot

Mr. Kinne:

- On board personally; but there are two reasons others aren't on board - no proof that it works and religious views – can't dismiss them

Dr. Gupta:

- Point well taken – vaccine does work 95% efficient - Moderna and Pfizer - 90% Johnson & Johnson
- There are a small percentage of breakthroughs – complicates the way the deaths are counted – creates antibody for first line of protection – it remembers so it fights hard
- Encourage mask for those unvaccinated that don't have robust system to fight
- If you want to do town hall she will present the information before they get vaccinated
- If you don't get vaccinated you impact the community, the state, the country and the world
- Hopefully you speak what I speak – encourage all to get vaccinated

Mr. Kinne left at 11:40

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan:

- Update on Fall school and masks

Dr. Gupta:

- Schools want guidance – unclear at this point – kids without vaccination will be required to wear masks – if vaccinated they don't have to wear masks - teachers should be role models – teachers should wear masks to be good role models
- As for the Fall – still don't know impact of community transmission – goal of parents is to have kids in schools – parents should look at the science – if a lot of cases why not wear the masks – will not speak to the Fall at this time because of uncertainty
- Learn along the way – the mask is our best friend – a protection from cold and flu
- In OC 288K have one dose – 217K have completed both doses
- Continue to have clinic every Tuesday – educate through churches
- Great team at the Health department - continue to work with lead, water, - staff found the time to do contact tracing
- Birth and death certificate department is open and in person
- Clinic for childcare vaccinations is open
- Home visiting has continued – weight program is open at Gifford and Bayberry soon

- Increased activity at the Crime lab and Forensics – peaked higher than 2015 – pandemic surfaces so many other things to include drug overdoses

Dr. Gupta:

- \$11m appropriated for school testing in the Fall – going forward – doesn't reimburse for history
- Answered Mr. Bush's question about school testing – plan will change depending on variables – preparing to go full force – have great partnership with school superintendents – will work with them to make it possible for kids to return to school
- Need to be prepared to take on any large outbreaks in the Fall

Mr. Bush:

- What if one tests positive – goes into isolation – is it the same as before – if you are around that person you would have to be in isolation
- Can a school require every student be tested?

Dr. Gupta:

- Private organization can require testing – St Joes under Trinity has mandated vaccinations – in order to work here you have to be vaccinated – happening in Europe where they are requiring vaccinations

Mrs. Abbott-Kenan:

- Control remains local but State Ed has the overlying power – no religious exemptions – can have a Doctor's note
- Some kids went to home schooling because of religious reasons

Dr. Gupta:

- Answered Ms. Kuhn's question regarding rapid testing - not being done – only systematic
- STD & HIV clinic has operated throughout pandemic – appointments only – County does the testing for those that are uninsured
- Family planning has always been open

***A motion was made by Ms. Cody, seconded by Dr. Chase to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously;
MOTION CARRIED***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

ATTENDANCE

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**
DATE: **JULY 14, 2021**



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Ann Rooney	CE
Yvette Velasco	LAW
Royale Scuder	CNY Allstate - guest
Travis Glazier	Office of Environment
Tenisha Murphy	CE
Indu Gupta	OCHD (Health)