

## Lyme Disease Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Transmission

› I've been bitten by a tick. Do I have Lyme disease?

› Can Lyme disease be transmitted sexually?

▼ Can Lyme disease be transmitted through breast milk?

There are no reports of Lyme disease being spread to infants through breast milk. If you are diagnosed with Lyme disease and are also breastfeeding, make sure that your doctor knows this so that he or she can prescribe an antibiotic that's safe for use when breastfeeding.

› Can Lyme disease be transmitted during a blood transfusion?

› Is it true that you can get Lyme disease anywhere in the U.S.?

› I live in the southeastern U.S. and get a lot of lone star tick bites. I've heard that I can get "southern Lyme disease". Is this true?

### Diagnosis, Testing, and Treatment

› I have heard that the diagnostic tests that CDC recommends are not very accurate. Can I be treated based on my symptoms or do I need to use a different test?

› I am pregnant and just found out I have Lyme disease. What should I do?

› If I have been diagnosed with Lyme disease, do I need to get tested for other tickborne diseases (coinfections)?

I have been sick for a few years with joint and muscle pain, fatigue, and difficulty thinking. I was tested for Lyme disease using a  
› Western Blot test. The "IgM" Western Blot test was positive but the "IgG" Western Blot test was negative. Is Lyme disease the cause of my symptoms?

› Where can I get a test to make sure that I am cured?

› My serologic (blood) test for Lyme disease is still positive even though I finished three weeks of antibiotics. Does this mean I am still infected?

› I heard that if I get Lyme disease I will always have it. Is that true?

› Can you recommend a doctor who is familiar with diagnosing and treating Lyme disease?

› What is "chronic Lyme disease?"

### Surveillance Questions

› How many people get Lyme disease?

› How are cases reported to CDC?

› Are more recent numbers available?

> **What is a surveillance case definition?**

## CDC—Specific Questions

> **What is Lyme Corps?**

> **What is CDC doing about Lyme disease?**

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Page last reviewed: March 4, 2015

Page last updated: September 5, 2017

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid>)

Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/index.html>)