

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**W**hereas Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by spirochetal bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is carried by deer ticks; and

**W**hereas Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the United States; and

**W**hereas The number of reported cases of Lyme disease in Massachusetts has increased ten-fold between 1997 and 2009; and

**W**hereas If not treated early, Lyme disease can infect every part of the body; and

**W**hereas In Massachusetts, the carriers of Lyme disease, deer ticks, can also carry the co-infections, such as babesiosis and human granulocytic anaplasmosis and erlichiosis;

**W**hereas There are multiple protective actions that can be taken by individuals to reduce exposure and infection; and

**W**hereas Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of Lyme disease among all Massachusetts citizens,

**N**ow, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 2011, to be

## LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twentieth day of March, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts