

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS

WHEREAS: Tick bites can cause several diseases such as Lyme disease, Alpha-Gal, Rickettsial infections, Tularemia, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, or other Borrelia infections, (e.g., Relapsing Tick Fever), Bartonellosis, and newly emerging viruses, making diagnosis complicated and time-consuming; and

WHEREAS: Ticks are carried by mice, rabbits, squirrels, deer, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and other animals; and

WHEREAS: Removing embedded ticks quickly can decrease chances of infection. Ticks can be small and difficult to detect, and many people who contract tick-borne diseases do not recall being bitten. Prompt treatment with adequate antibiotic therapy in early stages of infection usually cures most tick-borne diseases, thereby preventing long-term consequences or death; and

WHEREAS: Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by spirochetal bacteria called Borrelia burgdorferi. Lyme borreliosis and other tick-borne diseases are seriously underreported across the nation, as well as in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Citizens and medical providers are encouraged to take all tick-borne diseases seriously; and

WHEREAS: Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classifies Arkansas as a low incidence state for Lyme disease, it is important to report any signs of Lyme disease or other tick-borne illnesses to your doctor immediately. This ensures proper tracking, diagnosis, and treatment of these diseases are improved; and

WHEREAS: Through public awareness, early detection, and physician education the devastating effects of tick-borne diseases and co-infections across Arkansas can be minimized for citizens, especially children, who are most at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 2022, as

**LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS**

across the state, and I encourage our citizens to become more educated about these illnesses and how they can protect themselves from infection.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord 2022.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
John Thurston, Secretary of State