

# For Health Professionals

## Health Alerts

### **Health Advisory #102 - Continued Spread of Tick-Borne Diseases in New York State - October 4, 2004**

Since March 2002, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and local health departments have continued to identify the occurrence of babesiosis in New York State (NYS) outside of Long Island, and a northern geographic increase in the occurrence of Lyme disease. Additionally, an increase in the number of cases of human granulocytic ehrlichiosis has been documented. As all three of these diseases are transmitted by *Ixodes scapularis* (the deer tick), which is found throughout the state, the NYSDOH is again alerting medical providers of the possibility of tick-borne diseases occurring statewide, especially in persons residing or traveling in the Capital District, Hudson Valley, and southward.

Providers should be aware that tick activity and the possibility of tick-borne diseases continue through the fall in NYS.

NYS Sanitary Code and Public Health Law require all suspect, probable or confirmed Lyme disease, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis cases be reported to the local health department in the county in which the individual resides. The Erie County Department of Health and the NYSDOH Arthropod-Borne Disease Program can assist in investigating any potential cases of these diseases.

For more information contact the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 858-7697 (Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM) or the Arthropod-Borne Disease Program, New York State Department of Health at (518) 474-4568.

For detailed information regarding Lyme disease, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis please see the following websites: [www.erie.gov/health](http://www.erie.gov/health)

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_lyme.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_lyme.htm)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/babesia/default.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/ehrlichia/Index.htm>