Lyme disease is the **fastest-growing vector-borne disease** in the US.

The CDC estimates that there are **up to 500,000 new cases of Lyme annually**.

The current "gold standard" **diagnostic test misses up to 70% of acute or early-stage infections**.

**20–30% of patients develop long-term health issues**, even after antibiotic treatment, and develop what is described as persistent or chronic Lyme.

Lyme disease **is just one of many bacterial infections** that can be transmitted to humans from infected ticks.

There are **over a dozen different pathogens** (bacteria, viruses and parasites) that infected ticks can transmit to humans.

Ticks carry multiple pathogens that cause disease other than Lyme in humans, including anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Colorado tick fever, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Pacific Coast tick fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, tick-borne relapsing fever, and other coinfections.

There are **eight known species of ticks located around the US that vector pathogens** to humans.

Children ages 8–15 have the highest incidence of Lyme disease—they may need help with tick-checks (or be reminded to do them).

Ticks are found everywhere—in domestic gardens, near beaches, and even in urban parks.

Tick populations are growing and their range is expanding throughout the US—ticks and infected ticks are in previously unrecorded geographical regions.

In the Western and Southern US, **“tick season” is year-round** and ticks are continually active, although potential exposure typically peaks in the spring and early summer.

Ticks can be so tiny (the size of a poppy seed or smaller) that **many people never see the tick that bit them** and are completely unaware that they have been infected.

Less than half of people bitten by ticks develop a **tell-tale “bullseye” rash** which is often what doctors look for to diagnose Lyme disease.

The presentation of the rash can be **extremely variable** depending on age, skin tone, race, and other factors. At least 20–30% of people never develop a rash.

Wild mammals are the typical reservoirs for **tick-borne diseases**—including deer, squirrels, rabbits, mice, and other animals. Ticks feed on these animals and become infected.

Ticks can be tested for **pathogens, dead or alive**—Keep the tick moist by wrapping it in a piece of damp paper towel. Go to www.tickreport.com or www.ticknology.org for information.

Pets can **get sick, too**. Dogs and horses should be tested for Lyme and other tick-borne infections.

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**LYME DISEASE FAST FACTS**

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