



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by spirochetal bacteria, or *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and transmitted through the bite of infected black-legged ticks; and
- WHEREAS:** Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are prevalent across the United States. With ticks so frequently encountered by Georgia citizens across many parts of the state, it is important for citizens to be informed of the risks they carry; and
- WHEREAS:** Improper removal of embedded ticks is dangerous and can increase the risk of infection. However, prompt treatment in early stage infection may cure Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, preventing permanent damage or future complications; and
- WHEREAS:** Lyme disease has the potential to affect the brain, heart, joints, and other body organs, mimicking the symptoms of several other diseases. Symptoms of Lyme disease vary for each individual patient and also vary in intensity throughout the duration of the disease. Many are misdiagnosed with other familiar conditions; and
- WHEREAS:** The science that surrounds Lyme and other tick-borne diseases remains unclear, prompting the need for citizens and healthcare providers to take all tick-borne diseases seriously to prevent unnecessary illness; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia encourages citizens to learn more about Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, allowing them to better protect themselves against infection; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Trinity K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF