

**Lyme Disease Advisory Committee Meeting
March 16, 2012
Sacramento, California**

Committee members in attendance

Barbara Barsocchini, California Lyme Disease Association (LymeDisease.org)
Karen Chew, Lyme Disease Support Network
Vicki Kramer, Ph.D., California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Robert Lane, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Lisa Messner, CPhT, Lyme Disease Support Network
James Miller, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles
Scott Morrow, M.D., M.P.H., California Conference of Local Health Officers (via phone)
Christian Parlier, Lyme Disease Support Network
Chindi Peavey, Ph.D., Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)
Raphael Stricker, M.D., California Medical Association (CMA)

Other attendees

Denise Bonilla, M.S., M.S., CDPH, Committee Coordinator
Claudia Erickson, M.S., C.H.E.S., CDPH, Health Educator

Approximately, an additional 15 individuals representing the CDPH(Vector Borne Disease Section), Lake County MVCD, Alameda County VCD, and the interested public.

I. Roll Call and Opening Comments

The meeting was brought to order by Mr. Parlier at 9:45 a.m.

II. Review and approval of minutes of 1/24/2012 teleconference

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. CDPH Progress Report (Denise Bonilla)

Ms. Bonilla reviewed the tick-borne disease prevention activities of CDPH. For the general public, CDPH released a press release in late January warning about ticks and tick-borne diseases. This press release, along with tweets and Facebook postings, resulted in messages being spread through other health agencies' social media efforts. Ms. Bonilla reviewed the Vector-Borne Disease Section's (VBDS) outreach to the medical community; this included lectures to medical staff and supplying of materials per requests. VBDS continues to provide presentations and educational materials on tick-borne diseases to local vector control agencies and other partners. A focus was made this year to better target workers routinely exposed to tick habitats for tick-bite prevention. This included an occupational health poster, newsletter article, and webpage article that were created through a partnership of VBDS and CDPH's Occupational Health Branch.

Committee comment:

- Dr. Lane asked, when nymphs are tested by region, do you see differences based on geography? Ms. Bonilla replied that it is difficult to collect nymphal *Ixodes pacificus* in southern California, so fewer are tested from that region. However, this year VBDS had detected *Borrelia* in ticks from Orange County.
- Ms. Messner remarked that the occupational health poster should say that you should remove a tick from yourself whether it is attached or not. She also reported that in the Hollywood Hills, Ventura, and Topanga areas she has heard of an increased number of reports of attached nymphs two months earlier than usual.
- Dr. Lane stated that the tick-bite prevention materials (especially the tick cards) are appreciated and that on his recent visit to Jack London State Park these materials were available there.
- Mr. Parlier asked if any public service announcements (PSAs) are available. Dr. Kramer responded that we have two winning PSAs from the public that were showcased at the November meeting and another longer clip that will be discussed later in the meeting.

IV. Committee member updates

Ms. Barsocchini provided a LymeDisease.org update. There will be annual Lyme disease walks in several cities and a patient conference in Burlingame this year. They are hosting a booth at the CA Nurse Practitioners' conference in Indian Wells next week; there have been two new positive *Borrelia* findings in ticks in Los Angeles County. The LymeDisease.org (formally CALDA), will be having a tick-borne disease conference in May in San Diego for patients and medical practitioners.

Dr. Peavey stated that she is finishing up a survey of tick services provided by vector control agencies. The results will be put on the VBDS or MVCAC website. The survey indicated that more than half of the agencies have public education programs (these are concentrated in the Bay Area and Southern CA). Many counties do not have tick-borne disease information on their websites so one of the goals stemming from the survey is to get more information posted on websites.

Mr. Parlier showed the group an advertisement from the Insect Shield clothing company that makes clothing with imbedded insect repellent.

Dr. Miller reported that it is important to expand knowledge at the molecular and cellular level in regard to the tick and host interaction. These organisms are unique in their ability to regulate their gene expression during the entire infectious process in order to accommodate their survival.

Dr. Stricker mentioned a recently published article about Lyme disease spirochete transmission within 24 hours following a tick bite. A letter was written in response and questioned the short time interval. He suggested that the animal literature reports a 7%

transmission rate within 24 hours and human literature reports a 25% transmission rate within 24 hours. It would be interesting to see if tick removal technique affects transmission time.

Dr. Lane reported that his lab found 14% of birds tested from Mendocino County were PCR positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato*. He has also been working with Alameda County VCD to learn more about spirochetes there. This survey has novel findings- *B. burgdorferi*, *B. miyamotoi*, and spirochetes novel to North America are present in Alameda County. When talking about Lyme disease risk in California, it is best to discuss specific geographic regions.

Ms. Messner gave Dr. Kjemtrup a Cummings School Veterinary Medicine newsletter article on Lyme disease that she felt needed corrections.

V. HMO newsletter article on tick bite prevention.

Target Audience: The Public. Ms. Bonilla reviewed a proposed article to be sent to HMOs for inclusion in their newsletters.

Committee comment:

- It was noted that spring and summer are seasons (not common seasons) and it should include skin and heart problems in the description of Lyme complications.
- Ms. Barsocchini would like the wording changed from “nearly all patients get better...” to “treatment may be more effective if caught early”.
- Ms. Chew would like the wording of the second paragraph to change to “However, if not treated or treated later, the disease can progress to ...
- Dr. Stricker noted the term “immature” may be confusing for the public and we should use “young” or “juvenile” instead.
- Dr. Miller remarked that in the paragraph about treatment, to change the statement about treatment to substitute “progress” for the word “cause.”
- Dr. Lane stated that under “other tick-borne diseases” Rocky Mountain spotted fever should be changed to spotted fever.
- Dr. Morrow remarked that perhaps it would be best to go through managed care to send the article to HMOs.
- Mr. Parlier would like to include the statement, “Some ticks may carry companion diseases.”
- Ms. Messner would like to add, “.. in your yard or anything outdoors” to the statement about “Check yourselves often for ticks in natural areas.”
- The public made additional comments on the newsletter article.

VI. Tick bite prevention videos

Ms. Bonilla presented a video being made by CDPH-VBDS that demonstrates tick-surveillance (Part I) and tick-bite prevention (part II). The target audiences are intended to be: USFS staff (Tick surveillance) and the public (Tick bite Prevention). (Denise Bonilla).

Committee comment:

Part I (Tick surveillance)

- Dr. Lane remarked that the word ‘vector’ should be changed to ‘carrier’ for general occupational audience. An image of a nymph and a poppy seed will help with scale.
- Ms. Chew mentioned that you should also say nymphs are more likely to be infected with *Borrelia* species and they are not easily detected.
- Dr. Stricker stated that you should not handle ticks without gloves.
 - Dr. Lane said it is good to show that you can handle and touch ticks without getting infected
- Dr. Morrow said to mention there is variation in prevalence based on geographic location.
- The public made additional comments on the video.

Part II (Tick bite prevention)

Committee comment:

- Dr. Stricker stated that the audio is about DEET but the caption reads not to put permethrin on skin. The permethrin comment should be vocal.
- Dr. Lane commented it would be good to show nymphal habitat and to communicate that the vast majority of adult ticks will be found below the waist.
- Dr. Stricker mentioned that should we say something about pregnant women.
 - Ms. Bonilla remarked that in regards to pregnant women, the repellent/pesticide label instructions should be followed

VI. Presentation: Protect yourself from ticks where you work

Ms. Claudia Erickson presented a proposed web-based presentation intended for safety officers to present for a target audience of outdoor workers. (Claudia Erickson).

Committee comment:

- Minor edits to slides pertaining the tick life cycle and actions to take after returning from tick habitat were suggested.
- Dr. Peavey suggested to delete verbiage recommending to remove the tick mouth parts left in the skin
 - Dr. Kjemtrup remarked to add “if concerned see a physician” instead
- Dr. Lane remarked on the “Some ticks in CA can transmit disease” slide that it would be useful to put in more specific information about which ticks are most likely to bite people in California

- Ms. Erickson answered that the point we want to get across is to just avoid any tick bites
- Ms. Messner and other committee members suggested additional occupations to add to the list of “at risk” jobs. The public made additional comments for the committee’s consideration.

VIII. General Public Comment Period

- More outreach needs to be done to educate physicians about Lyme disease. Dr. Kramer responded that CDPH has sent out letters and surveys to physicians and will continue this effort.
- Relative to Senate Bill 772. Section 5, item 2: “committee may encourage...”, Caller suggested that she took this to mean that the committee can create an expanded case definition regardless of what the CDC does and a subcommittee to do this should be formed. (Note, SB 772 did not pass in 2008).
- It is better to relate to medical personnel as people, more personally. We need more general education and to think more collectively to get the message out to the public. Working on recreation as the next focus would be a great idea to further education on tick-bite prevention.
- Perhaps use the state email system to get information out to state workers
- The number of cases (65) is laughable. One lab in California had more than 1700+ positive Lyme tests last year. It would be interesting to find out where this is falling down, is it at the county level or is at the state level?
- Tick-borne disease educational materials should be sent to urgent care worker’s compensation clinics to make them aware.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 by Mr. Parlier