

Lyme Disease Action Plans for 2008 Season

ACTION 1: NC DPH will propose to the Vectorborne Disease Task Force in June to make mandatory reporting by laboratories any positive IgG ELISA and Western blot (2-step) test to Bb consistent with the 2007 CSTE/CDC case definition. Also, technical issues will be discussed among communicable disease and informatics staff.

June 20, 2008

ACTION 2: NC DPH will update on its Communicable Disease Manual website the Lyme disease description to match the CSTE/CDC 2007 case definition.

Task completed May 2008.

ACTION 3: The IDEXX Reference Lab data will be presented to the next Vectorborne Disease Task Force meeting. NCSU vets and others will be asked to comment.

June 20, 2008

ACTION 4: A member of the Wildlife Resource Commission sits on the Vectorborne Disease Task Force and will be asked to comment on NC deer populations.

June 20, 2008

ACTION 5: NC DPH will produce communications aimed at physicians on the appropriate testing for late manifestations of Lyme disease. Communications will also articulate any changing epidemiological trends that may lead to new recommendations on the clinical approach to persons with tick bites and associated symptoms.

Summer 2008, articles planned for Forum (NC Medical Board); NC Medical Society

ACTION 6: A communication plan will be discussed at future Vector Borne Disease Task Force meetings including working with community partners to make Tick Awareness Week an annual event.

June 20, 2008

ACTION 7: The definition of a “Lyme endemic county” will be decided in consultation with the Vectorborne Disease Task Force.

June 20, 2008

ACTION 8: NC DPH will avoid using terms such as “rare” or “scarce” in its publications on Lyme disease, however unless there is new surveillance data describing increasing Bb infections in NC, the term “uncommon” will continue to be used.

Ongoing

ACTION 9: NC DPH will assist UNC in conducting the STARI study in eastern NC clinics. The goal is to enroll 20 patient-volunteers.

Ongoing