

# Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY\*

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Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive



Henry M. Kurban, MD, MBA, MPH, FACPM  
Commissioner

### **RECOMMENDED DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FOR TICK-BORNE DISEASES**

Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 1PM

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health reminds providers to be alert for tick-borne diseases. The following are diagnosis, reporting, and practice updates:

- **Consider using PCR testing** for the diagnosis of babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis during the acute illness phase as a positive result provides confirmation of disease from a single sample.
- *Borrelia miyamotoi* is recognized as a human pathogen vectored by *Ixodes scapularis* (deer) ticks which may produce disease similar to anaplasmosis in clinical presentation. Testing for *B. miyamotoi* is available at **Imugen (Massachusetts)**: [www.imugen.com](http://www.imugen.com)
- **Include blood donation/receipt questions** when taking a history from any patient suspected of having a tick-borne disease, especially babesiosis, to assist in the safety monitoring of our blood supply.
- Reporting forms and information on reporting requirements are available online at [www.dutchessny.gov/DBCH](http://www.dutchessny.gov/DBCH) - Select "Information for Healthcare Provider" and click on "Disease Reporting."
- If you have any questions, please contact the Department's **Communicable Disease Control Division** at **(845) 486-3402**.

\*\* **Coming Wednesday, June 1st - Public Health Advisory:** "Barriers to Access: Atovaquone (Mepron) for the Treatment of Babesiosis." In 2015, Dutchess County investigated reports from patients who faced difficulties in obtaining Atovaquone, a medication used in combination with Azithromycin for the treatment of Babesiosis. This public health advisory provides patients and their health care providers with methods for securing this medication.

\***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health**

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