

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2440-5**

**WHEREAS**, the month of May is recognized as Lyme Disease Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease is primarily caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks; and

**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease is the fastest growing vector-borne illness in the United States (US); and

**WHEREAS**, the blacklegged tick is found in 50% of the US counties with a concentration in the Northeast, upper Midwest, and Western regions of the US; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 500,000 Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year. To date, there have been approximately 1,300 reported cases of Lyme disease in Santa Clara County, though many cases go unreported; and

**WHEREAS**, when Lyme and tick-borne diseases are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, it may result in severe illness, disability, or death; In 2024 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) added Lyme disease to the list of disease agents that have been linked to chronic symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, ticks that carry Lyme disease can carry other pathogens, many of which are reported in California and often cause co-infections (an infection with more than one tick-borne pathogen), which complicates diagnosis and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, tick-borne diseases are a clinical diagnosis based on symptoms, physical findings, and the potential of exposure to infected ticks or their habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, [growing evidence](#) suggests that climate change may increase the incidence and prevalence of tick-borne diseases, like Lyme; and

**WHEREAS**, to protect oneself from potential tick bites while in a tick habitat, the [Santa Clara County Vector Control District](#) suggests staying in the middle of trails and to avoid touching logs, tree trunks, grassy areas, fallen branches, and leaf piles; and

**WHEREAS**, the [California Department of Public Health](#) also recommends, as a means of protecting oneself, to wear long pants while hiking, to use [tick repellent](#), and to [thoroughly check yourself and others \(including pets\) for ticks](#) during and up to three days after being outside in areas with ticks; and

**WHEREAS**, students that are affected by Lyme disease and Lyme disease-like symptoms may be at greater risk of having their school attendance impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, school nurses and other health professionals have the opportunity to help raise awareness

about prevention and early detection among students and families; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 1, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

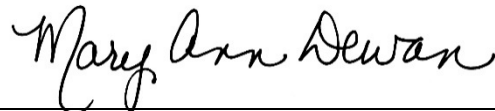
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools