CDC Releases MMWR Article:
“Three Sudden Cardiac Deaths Associated with Lyme Disease.”

Thursday, December 12, 2013 - 3:00 pm

Please Distribute to all Clinical Staff in Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Infection Control, School Nurses and Day Cares.

BACKGROUND:
Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released an MMWR article titled “Three Sudden Cardiac Deaths Associated with Lyme Carditis—United States, November 2012–July 2013.” All three case studies were from Lyme endemic areas, including one in New York State. A copy of the article may be found online at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6249a1.htm?s_cid=mm6249a1_w

RECOMMENDATIONS:
Since Lyme disease is endemic in the region, prompt recognition and early, appropriate therapy for Lyme disease is essential for those considered for Lyme carditis. Lyme carditis can occur in all age groups but is especially common among males aged 15-45 years based on overall age distribution of people who get Lyme disease. DCDOH recommends healthcare providers to do the following:

1. Ask all patients with suspected Lyme disease about cardiac symptoms, e.g., palpitations, chest pain, light headedness, fainting, shortness of breath, and increased dyspnea with exertion
2. Ask patients with acute, unexplained cardiac symptoms about possible tick exposure and symptoms of Lyme disease
3. Consult IDSA guidelines for treatment recommendations: http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/43/9/1089.full
4. Talk to patients about tick bite prevention, including repellent use, daily tick checks, immediately shower after outdoor exposure and placing clothing in a clothes dryer for at least 30 minutes on high heat, and landscape management

REPORTING:
Tickborne disease should be reported to DCDOH within 24 hours of diagnosis to 845-486-3534. Reporting forms may be faxed to 845-486-3464.

RESOURCES:

*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.