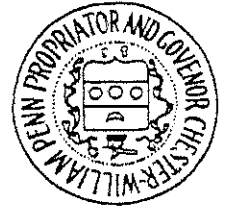


THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS:

Carol Aichele
Terence Farrell
Kathi Cozzone

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chester County Government Services Center
601 Westtown Road, Suite 290
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
610-344-6225 FAX: 610-344-6727
www.chesco.org/health

JOHN P. MAHER, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Director

MARGARET C. RIVELLO, M.B.A.
Public Health Administrator

RECEIVED
JUN 12 2008
BY: *[Signature]*

June 5, 2008

Dear Manager:

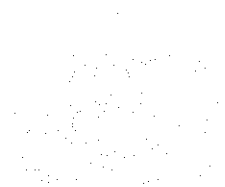
As you may know, Lyme Disease continues to be the leading vector-borne disease in the nation, and that southeast Pennsylvania (Chester County in particular) has long been in the epicenter of that disease. The number of reported cases of Lyme Disease in the U.S. has increased some 25-fold since surveillance began in 1982, and Chester County had the highest number of cases in Pennsylvania with over 700 reported in 2007 (provisional data).

You may not be aware, however, that Lyme disease has been so rampant here that some years back we (the Chester County Health Department) were one of only 20 agencies in the nation to be funded by the CDC for our public health education and prevention efforts aimed at Lyme Disease.

In addition, in 1998-99 we collaborated with the Epidemiology and Public Health faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center in a large case-control study of the behavioral and environmental risk factors involved in putting patients at risk for Lyme Disease. The results of that study were published in *Public Health Reports* in 2001 (Supplement 2, Volume 116) and a copy is available on our CCHD website for your perusal.

This letter is to inform you that now, ten years later, we have once again agreed to assist the University of Pennsylvania (New Bolton) researchers in a follow-up survey to identify risk factors for infection with Lyme borreliosis and to measure the true incidence and the rate of reoccurrence of Lyme borreliosis in a cohort of people living in Chester County for the past 10 years. This will mean contacting the same residents involved in the previous case and control cohorts.

The protocol to be used has been reviewed by this Department and has also been approved by the University of Pennsylvania's Institutional Review Board to assure patient safety and confidentiality.

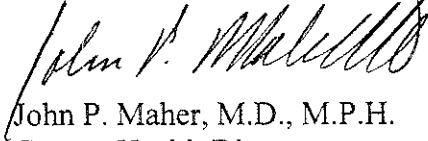


You can assist us greatly by supporting our efforts by reassuring any residents who may contact you with concerns about the mailings and phone calls that it is a legitimate and potentially very useful study.

If you have any questions please contact me at the Chester County Health Department (610-344-6225), or Dr. Gary Smith at the New Bolton Center (610-444-5800).

Thank you for your cooperation in this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



John P. Maher, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Director

JPM/jsj

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