



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**  
David S. Keller, Commissioner  
dskeller@franklincountypa.gov  
(717) 261-3812

### **Franklin County Proclaims May 2019 Lyme Disease Awareness Month**

May 15, 2019 – Chambersburg, PA – The Franklin County Commissioners declared the month of May 2019 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Franklin County. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by the bite of a tick. Pennsylvania is ranked number one in reported cases of Lyme disease in the US for the 8<sup>th</sup> year running.

“Franklin County recognizes the need for education and awareness to prevent the spread of Lyme disease and other tick and mosquito borne illnesses,” said Commissioner Chairman Dave Keller, “We are grateful to have experts in the field to aid us.”

Renee Sharpe, President of the Chambersburg Lyme Alliance, discussed the structure of Lyme disease and how it affects the body. Her non-profit organization focuses on education and awareness to reduce the risk of contracting the disease.

“I have so many friends who have developed Lyme Disease. Expanding the mosquito program to include tick borne disease was a no brainer as our county is affected in a major way,” said Commissioner Bob Thomas.

Franklin County’s new Mosquito and Tick Borne Control Specialist, Jason Goetz stated that he will be conducting research, mitigating issues and offering public outreach to educate our residents on mosquito and tick borne illnesses and how to prevent them.



*Pictured above: Renee Sharpe, President of Chambersburg Lyme Alliance addresses the Board of Commissioners and public in attendance at Thursday's Commissioners meeting.*



*Pictured above: Jason Goetz, Franklin County's new Mosquito and Tick Borne Control Specialist, introduces himself and explains his role.*



*Pictured above: The Board of Commissioners stand with the Chambersburg Lyme Alliance to present a Lyme Disease Awareness Month proclamation.*

More information on the Chambersburg Lyme Alliance can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ChambersburgLymeAlliance/>.

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