



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

970-221-6400

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging & Zoonotic Diseases
Division of Vector-Borne Diseases
3156 Rampart Road
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

October 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Fries,

We have reviewed your information quality appeal related to the CDC website dated August 8, 2017. The Information Quality Appeal you submitted stated that the following sentence at www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/index.html is incorrect:

“However this disease does not occur nationwide and is concentrated heavily in the northeast and upper Midwest.”

We agree that the term “occur” is subject to misinterpretation and that the sentence can be clarified.

The sentence in question will be replaced with this wording:

“These states have areas where infected ticks are common. Infected ticks can also be found in neighboring states and in some areas of Northern California, Oregon and Washington.

Although Lyme disease cases are occasionally reported from most other states, this does NOT mean that infection was acquired in those states. Case reports reflect where a patient lives at the time of diagnosis, which can be different from the state where the patient was infected.”

Please also note that the maps shown at <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/maps.html> contain a similar disclaimer: “Each dot represents one case of Lyme disease and is placed randomly in the patient’s county of residence. The presence of a dot in a state does not necessarily mean that Lyme disease was acquired in that state. People travel between states and the place of residence is sometimes different from the place where the patient became infected.”

If you wish to appeal this response to your request for correction, you may submit a written appeal or electronic request for reconsideration within 30 days of receipt of our response. The appeal must state the reasons why the agency response is insufficient or inadequate. You must attach a copy of your original request and the agency's response to it. Also, clearly mark the appeal with the words, "Information Quality Appeal" and send the appeal to InfoQuality@cdc.gov or to the following address:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Management Analysis and Services Office
1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop F-07
Atlanta, Georgia 30333 Fax: (770) 488-4995

Sincerely,

Lyle R. Petersen, MD, MPH
Director