**Abington Pediatrics Lyme Disease Protocol**

If you remove a deer tick from your child and the tick was attached for *more than 48 hours*, please call the office for an appointment (if the tick was crawling on your child’s skin, no action is necessary). You do not need to save the removed tick – testing the tick itself for Lyme disease is no longer performed as it is inaccurate and extremely expensive. After evaluation in office, the doctor may send your child for blood work to rule out Lyme disease. Blood work is usually performed two weeks after the bite – this will give us the most accurate reading (if blood work to test for Lyme is performed on the same day as the bite, the result is less accurate). The doctor may start your child on antibiotics while we wait for the results of the blood work, but this is dependent on the symptoms your child is exhibiting.

If you remove a deer tick from your child and the tick was attached for *less than 24 hours*:

1. Keep the area clean and dry
2. Apply antibacterial ointment (Neosporin, Bacitracin) to the site as needed to prevent infection
3. Monitor for the following symptoms over the next month:
	1. Rash (usually circular, can appear anywhere on the body)
	2. Headache
	3. Chills
	4. Fever
	5. Fatigue
	6. Swollen glands
	7. Muscle or joint paint
4. Call the office for an appointment if any of the above symptoms develop

**Remember, not all deer ticks carry Lyme disease. If your child is bit by a deer tick, this does not mean he or she will develop Lyme disease.**