

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy James Browne

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Date: 19th March 2021

PQ 11259/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the diagnosis and subsequent treatment of Lyme disease here; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

Lyme disease (also known as Lyme borelliosis) is an infection caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted to humans by bites from ticks infected with the bacteria. It was added to the notifiable disease list in Ireland from January 2012. The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) has advised that rates for Lyme disease have remained steady over the past 4 to 5 years. Lyme disease infection is generally mild affecting only the skin. The most common noticeable evidence of infection is a rash called erythema migrans. This is seen in up to 90% of patients

Lyme disease may be treated by Infectious Diseases specialists, General Practitioners or by General Internal Medicine, available across all acute hospitals. The HSE website www.hse.ie provides up to date information and advice to the public and other government departments on Lyme Disease. Relevant links to related articles and sites are also available on the website.

HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre) is Ireland's specialist agency for the surveillance of infectious diseases. Disease surveillance involves the collection, analysis and understanding of information about diseases. Both the HPSC and Tick Talk Ireland also provide guidance on protection against contracting Lyme disease and the HPSC runs a Lyme disease awareness campaign each year.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO

