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Deputy Sorca Clark
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ22033/22 To ask the Minister for Health the awareness campaigns and training that is available to general practitioners for the identification and treatment of Lyme disease.

Dear Deputy Clark

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The following were identified in the document *Primary Prevention and Surveillance of Lyme Borreliosis in Ireland (produced in October 2019)*, as key elements of strategy for tick and Lyme awareness:

- The general public should have access to simple key health information on ticks, preventing tick attachment and Lyme disease
- This information should have a single source so that the likelihood of mixed messages or inaccurate information is minimised
- The media (including social media) should be used to ensure widespread transmission and penetration of these messages
- Simple messages should be reinforced at regular intervals through the use of social media.
- Media and other events should be intensified at the beginning of each tick biting season to bring the issue to public awareness.

Although cases of Lyme borreliosis are reported throughout the year infection is more commonly diagnosed during the summer season, coinciding with tick activity and high levels of outdoor human activity that may result in tick exposure. HPSC has been regularly posting seasonal information on Lyme for the general public and healthcare professionals.

Information provided by HPSC on www.hpsc.ie is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The website covers topics for both healthcare professionals and the general public. The HPSC website provides free materials for printing including posters and leaflets. Information is targeted for specific risk groups e.g. children.

Information for the general public

- Lyme Disease: Factsheet for the general public
- Prevent tick bites and Lyme Disease: leaflets and posters
- Laboratory testing for Lyme Disease: Factsheet for the general public

Information for clinicians and other healthcare professionals ·

- Lyme factsheet for health practitioners
- Erythema migrans diagnostic support tool
- Prevention and control of tick-borne disease in Europe
- Case definition for notification of Lyme neuroborreliosis
- Clinical management of Lyme borreliosis consensus statement
- Erythema migrans slide image set
- Results of a laboratory survey on *Borrelia burgdorferi* diagnostic methods in Ireland

In addition, the HPSC website hosts links to useful Lyme borreliosis resources from international public health bodies such as the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), UK Health Security Agency and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

In terms of the training that is available to General Practitioners in relation to Lyme disease, while HPSC provides information resources for a range of clinicians and health professionals, education and training for General Practitioners falls within the purview of the Irish College of General Practitioners.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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