



BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Barry Ward
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

06th June 2025

PQ27639/25 - To ask the Minister for Health her views on the merits of creating an awareness campaign in relation to the dangers of Lyme disease; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

Thank you for your representation.

The National Health Protection Office of the HSE (HSE:NHPO) is responsible for a number of initiatives to raise awareness of ticks and tick-borne infection (including Lyme disease and Tickborne encephalitis - TBE).

1. Annual Tick Awareness Day

Each year in early May, HSE:NHPO marks Tick Awareness Day, providing practical advice on prevention of tick bites, which can transmit Lyme disease and TBE, through website news articles (HPSC.ie), social media posts, press releases and media interviews. This initiative encourages individuals to take preventive measures during periods when tick activity is highest. Information is available on most common tick habitats, high risk behaviours, prevention of contact, tick disinsection, and tick identification and removal.

2. Continual Public Information Provision

HSE:NHPO publishes detailed factsheets and leaflets for the general public, offering guidance on preventing tick bites and recognising symptoms of Lyme disease and TBE. These resources are available on the HPSC website and are intended to educate the public on protective measures and early detection.

3. Educational Materials for Distribution

To further spread awareness, HSE:NHPO provides downloadable posters and leaflets that are intended to be distributed in community centres, schools, and recreational and other common public and private spaces, including those with an increased risk of biting ticks. These materials aim to inform individuals about the risks of tick bites and the importance of preventive actions.

HSE:NHPO provides material on tick awareness, prevention and removal (<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/vectorborne/lymedisease/informationforthepublic/factsheetsforthegeneralpublic/>). In addition there is a suite of Lyme Disease resources including posters and information leaflets, available at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/vectorborne/lymedisease/>. These posters are available for display on publicly accessible land. HPSC has highlighted the availability of these posters and information leaflets to Government Departments and public agencies that control access to such accessible land.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.



Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden

General Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer