

## 4.4 Other Vectorborne Diseases

Four vectorborne diseases were added to the notifiable disease list in Ireland from the beginning of 2012. This chapter summarises the information gathered on these notifications in the first year of formal surveillance. The case definitions for these diseases are outlined on the HPSC website at

[www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/NotifiableDiseases/CaseDefinitions/](http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/NotifiableDiseases/CaseDefinitions/).

### Lyme neuroborreliosis

Lyme neuroborreliosis is an infection caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted to humans by bites from ticks, generally hard-bodied ticks (*Ixodidae*).

Lyme neuroborreliosis is the notifiable disease entity, and in 2012, eight cases of lyme neuroborreliosis were notified in Ireland, four male and four female. Two were for cases less than 15 years of age, while the remaining six notifications were for adult cases. Six patients were admitted to hospital, one was reported as a day-patient, with the hospitalization status of the eighth case not specified.

Cases were distributed along the western seaboard, with three reported from HSE-MW, two each from HSE-S and HSE-NW, and one from HSE-W. None were reported as being acquired abroad.

### Dengue Fever

Seven confirmed cases of dengue fever were notified during 2012, two of which were reported as being admitted to hospital. Cases ranged in age from 23-63 years of age (median 32 years), and four were female.

Dengue is found commonly throughout the tropics and subtropics and is endemic in about 100 countries. Three of the notified cases in 2012 were associated with travel in India, two in Thailand, while the country of infection was not specified for the remaining two cases. These destinations probably reflect the frequency of travel by Irish residents to dengue endemic countries.

### Chikungunya fever and West Nile fever

No cases of chikungunya or west nile fever were notified in Ireland in 2012.