

DSHS Laboratory Specimen Submission Guidance for Specimen Identification in Human Cases of New World Screwworm (NWS)

**Immediately Report all Human NWS Cases to [Your Local Health Department](#).
Report Animal Cases to the [Texas Animal Health Commission \(TAHC\)](#).**

Specimen Collection

Use: Leakproof container with enough 70% ethanol or isopropanol to submerge all sampled larvae.

- All larvae extracted from a wound should be placed immediately in 70% ethanol or isopropanol in a leakproof container.
- After extraction, select 10 larvae for laboratory identification and place them into a second vial with 70% ethanol.
- If there are fewer than 10 larvae collected, submit all of them.
- The larvae selected for identification should be collected from different depths within the wound.
- Label the specimen container with at **least two patient identifiers** and the **date of collection**.



New World Screwworm larvae.
Photo by Sohath Yusseff-Vanegas, USDA ARS

Specimen Disposal

- Submerge all remaining larvae and eggs in 70% ethanol in a separate leak-proof container and place it in a zip-top plastic bag and seal it.
- Dispose of the sealed bag according to your facility's medical waste disposal protocol.
- **Do not dispose of any larvae in the trash or outside in the ground.**
- Failure to kill and properly dispose of all NWS larvae or eggs may introduce NWS into the local environment.

Shipping NWS Specimens to the Laboratory

Ship ambient as Category B Biological Substance, UN3373
Specimens must be:

- **Triple Packaged** to withstand shock, pressure changes, leaks, and other ordinary handling conditions while in transit.
- **Packaged with Enough Absorbent Material** such as paper towels that can soak up the entire contents of the specimen container.
- **Submit each specimen** with a completed G-2B submission form.
- **Ensure all tubes are securely closed to prevent leaks!**
- **Secure tube lids shut by wrapping in paraffin film (e.g., Parafilm).**

Visit DSHS' online [Specimen Shipping and Mailing Guidance](#) for more details.



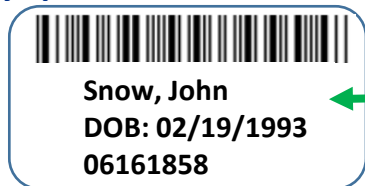
The DSHS Laboratory Accepts NWS Specimens from Healthcare Providers Only.



Completing G-2B Submission Forms for Submitting New World Screwworm (NWS) Specimens from Humans Cases for Identification at the DSHS Austin Laboratory

Label Specimen With Unique Identifiers

Every specimen must have at least two unique identifiers on its label.



Three patient identifiers are preferred.

Provide Patient Identifiers in Sections 2 and 3 of G-2B Form

- Patient identifiers on specimen label and submission form must match.
- Date of Collection must be provided in Section 3.

SECTION 2. PATIENT						
NOTE: Patient name on specimen MUST match name on this form exactly. Name mismatches will be rejected. e.g., Partial name on specimen label but full name is provided on form. Specimen container must have two (2) unique identifiers that match this form exactly. e.g., DOB, Unique Identifier.						
** REQUIRED	Last Name **	Snow		First Name **	John	
	Address **	39 Broad Street				
	City **	Austin	State **	TX	Zip Code **	78756
	DOB (mm/dd/yyyy)	02/19/1993	Sex **	M	Ethnicity:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Pregnant?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				

SECTION 3. SPECIMEN			
NOTE: If the 'Date of Collection' field is not completed, the specimen will be rejected			
RED	Date of Collection (mm/dd/yyyy) **	Time of Collection **	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
	12/21/2024	08:29 a.m.	
	Unique Identification Number ** e.g., MHW/ Alien #/ Accession #	Comments or Additional e.g., QPC ID, Previous DSHS S	
	06161858		

Select Test Type in Section 4.3

- Check "Worm Identification."
- Write in "NWS" or "New World Screwworm."

4.3 Parasitology
<input type="checkbox"/> Cryptosporidium spp. Exam
<input type="checkbox"/> Cyclospora spp. Exam
<input type="checkbox"/> Fecal Ova and Parasite Exam
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malaria or Blood Parasite Exam ◆
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schistosoma or Urine Parasite Exam ◆
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worm Identification ◆
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
NWS

Identify Specimen Type in Section 2

Check "Worm (site)" and write in location they were collected from.

<input type="checkbox"/> Sputum: Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> W
<input type="checkbox"/> Throat Swab	<input type="checkbox"/> Ot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worm (site) <u>R. leg</u>	

Select Payor Source in Section 6

Check "Submitter" or "Private Insurance."

** REQUIRED	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare (8)
	Medicaid/Medicare #:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitter (3)	<input type="checkbox"/> IDEAS/EAIDU (1610)
	<input type="checkbox"/> BIDS (1720)	<input type="checkbox"/> Immunizations (1609)
	<input type="checkbox"/> BT Grant (1719)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Insurance* (4)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pub Hlth Follow Up (1608)	<input type="checkbox"/> TIPP (5144)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoonosis (1620)	

Questions About . . .

NWS Testing/Identification:

512-776-7560 or Medical.Parasitology@dshs.texas.gov

NWS Case Reporting:

[Disease Reporting Contacts](#)

Submitter ID Numbers or Submission Forms:

512-776-7578 or LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov

Overnight Shipping Address:

Salvador Arreola, Texas Dept. of State Health Services, Public Health Laboratory Division, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199



New World Screwworm (NWS) Specimen FAQs

for Submitting to the DSHS Austin Laboratory for Identification

The Laboratory accepts NWS specimens from healthcare providers.

Do I need to have a DSHS Lab submitter account to submit NWS specimens?

Yes. If you are not a DSHS submitter, fill out a DSHS [Submitter ID Request Form](#) and email it to the DSHS Laboratory Reporting Group at LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov or fax it to 512-776-7533. A Lab Reporting team member will contact you to complete the onboarding process.

How do I update my DSHS Lab submitter contact information?

Update your contact information by providing it in a [Submitter ID Request Form](#). Email or fax the completed form to the Lab Reporting Group (contact info. above).

- Please do not manually correct contact details in Section 1 of the G-2B Form.

How do I obtain new master G-2B submission forms?

Request a master G-2B submission form by emailing the Laboratory Reporting Team at LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov or calling 512-776-7578.

- **Please do not use sample watermarked submission forms from the DSHS website.**
 - Specimens received with sample watermarked submission forms cannot be processed.

I have fewer than 10 larvae from a wound, should I still submit them?

Yes! If fewer than 10 larvae were removed from a wound site, submit all of them. Please ensure the specimen container is correctly labeled and the G-2B submission form is complete.

I do not have 70% ethanol to preserve the specimens. What else may be used?

You may also use 70% isopropanol as preservative. Please call the Medical Parasitology Lab at 512-776-7560 for case-by-case guidance.

Should I submit specimens obtained from animals?

No. Only specimens obtained from humans are accepted at the Lab. Refer to Texas Animal Health Commission's [NWS Sample Collection Protocols Guide](#) on reporting and testing livestock and pets. See Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) [Find a Wildlife Biologist page](#) to notify TPWD of wildlife cases.

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