



What Physicians and Other Clinicians Need to Know about New World Screwworm

June 18, 2026

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Varun Shetty, MD, MBA, MS

Chief State Epidemiologist

Texas Department of State Health Services

DISCLAIMER

The information presented today is based current preliminary data and on CDC's recent guidance. Information is subject to change.

June 18, 2026



Webinar Logistics



Session Recording: Today's presentation will be recorded and posted on [New World Screwworm \(NWS\) | Texas DSHS](#)



Audio & Camera Settings: Chat and camera are disabled for attendees



Q&A Session: Questions will be taken at the end of today's presentation.
Submit questions anytime using the (?) icon in the top right.



Follow-Up Questions: If we cannot get to all questions, please email: newworldscrewworm@dshs.texas.gov



Slides Availability: Presentation slides will be provided after the presentation has concluded



Technical Support: For technical difficulties, call GoToWebinar at 1-800-263-6317

Agenda



1. New World Screwworm Background

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian, DSHS

2. Clinical Overview

Mehgan Kidd, MD MS
Infectious Diseases Medical Officer, DSHS

3. Situational Update

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian, DSHS

4. Human Case Reporting

Briana O'Sullivan-Kovacs, MPH
Epidemiologist, DSHS

5. Testing and Laboratory Submission

Grace Kubin, PhD
Deputy Commissioner
Public Health Laboratory Division, DSHS

6. Food Safety

James R. Dillon, DVM, MPH
Director
Texas Meat Safety Assurance, DSHS

7. Resources

Saroj Rai, PhD, MPH
Chief Advisor, DSHS

7. FAQ

8. Closing Remarks

Varun Shetty, MD, MBA, MS
Chief State Epidemiologist, DSHS

Background

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
Texas Department of State Health Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

New World Screwworm Background

- New World screwworm (NWS), *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, is a devastating pest that can cause myiasis- an infestation of fly larvae in tissue.
- The name screwworm refers to the larval' feeding behavior as they burrow (screw) into the wound.
- NWS fly larvae (maggots) are parasites that feed on the healthy tissue of a living animal and can cause serious damage.
- NWS can infest any warm- blooded animal- livestock, pets, wildlife, rarely birds and people.
- Severe infestations are almost always fatal if untreated.



Image: An adult New World screwworm fly

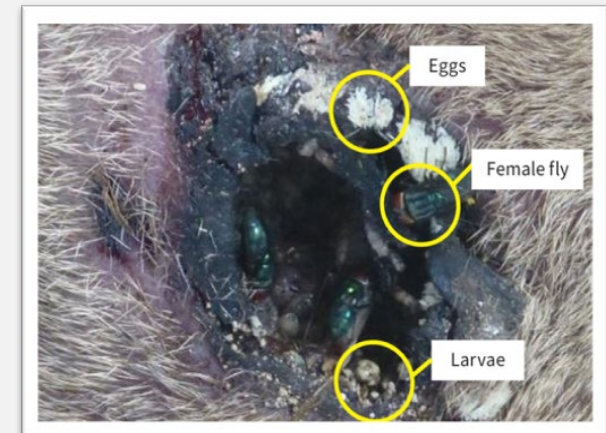
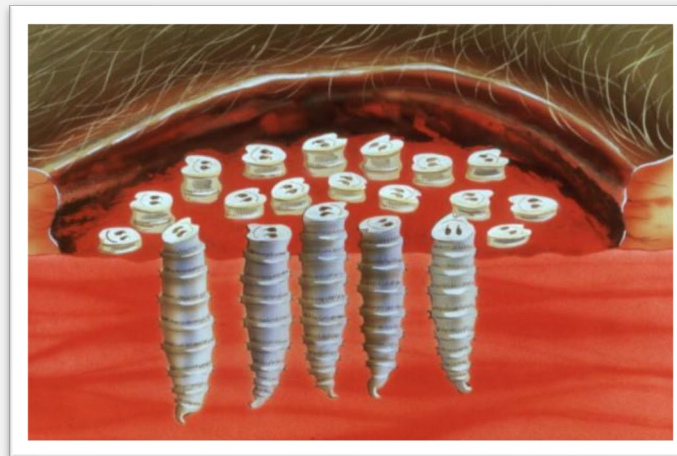
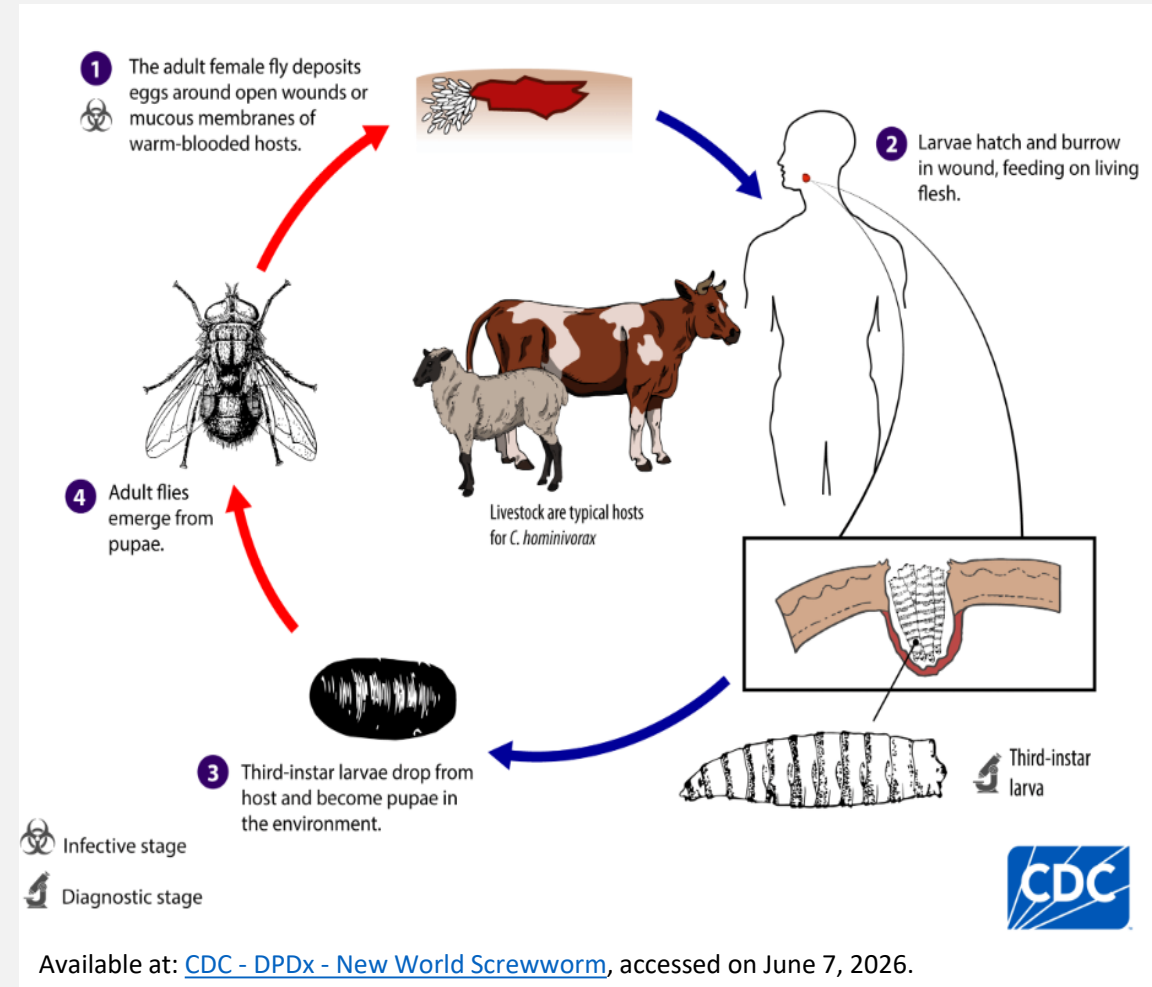


Image: an NWS infestation

NWS Life Cycle

- The adult screwworm fly is attracted to open wounds and will lay eggs on the edge of the wound.
 - One female can lay about 200 – 300 eggs at a time and may lay up to 3,000 eggs during her 10- to 30-day lifespan.
- Within around 12 hours, the eggs hatch into larvae.
 - Larvae burrow into the wound to feed on live tissue.
- Larvae feed for about one week and then migrate off and burrow into the ground to develop into pupae
- After about another week, an adult fly emerges
- A female fly mates once in her life cycle, though males can mate multiple times
 - Important for NWS control methods



New World Screwworm Background

- NWS was eradicated from the US in 1960s and from Mexico in the 1980s using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).
- SIT is a proven tool for fighting the spread of NWS.
 - With this method, sterile flies are released into an area where a known population has become established.
 - The sterile male flies mate with wild female NWS flies, which then lay unfertilized eggs.
 - Because female NWS flies mate just once in their lifespan, the NWS population progressively reduces and ultimately dies out.
- NWS remains endemic in South America, Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic
- Animals infested with NWS should be treated according to their veterinarian's recommendations.

Clinical Overview

Mehgan Kidd, MD, MS

Infectious Diseases Medical Officer

Texas Department of State Health Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

New World Screwworm in Humans

- Although livestock and wildlife are the typical primary hosts, NWS can also infest humans.
- Larvae are attracted to open sores or mucosal surfaces, such as the nose or mouth.
- They can lay several hundred eggs around the wound at a time.
- Symptoms begin shortly after the eggs hatch.

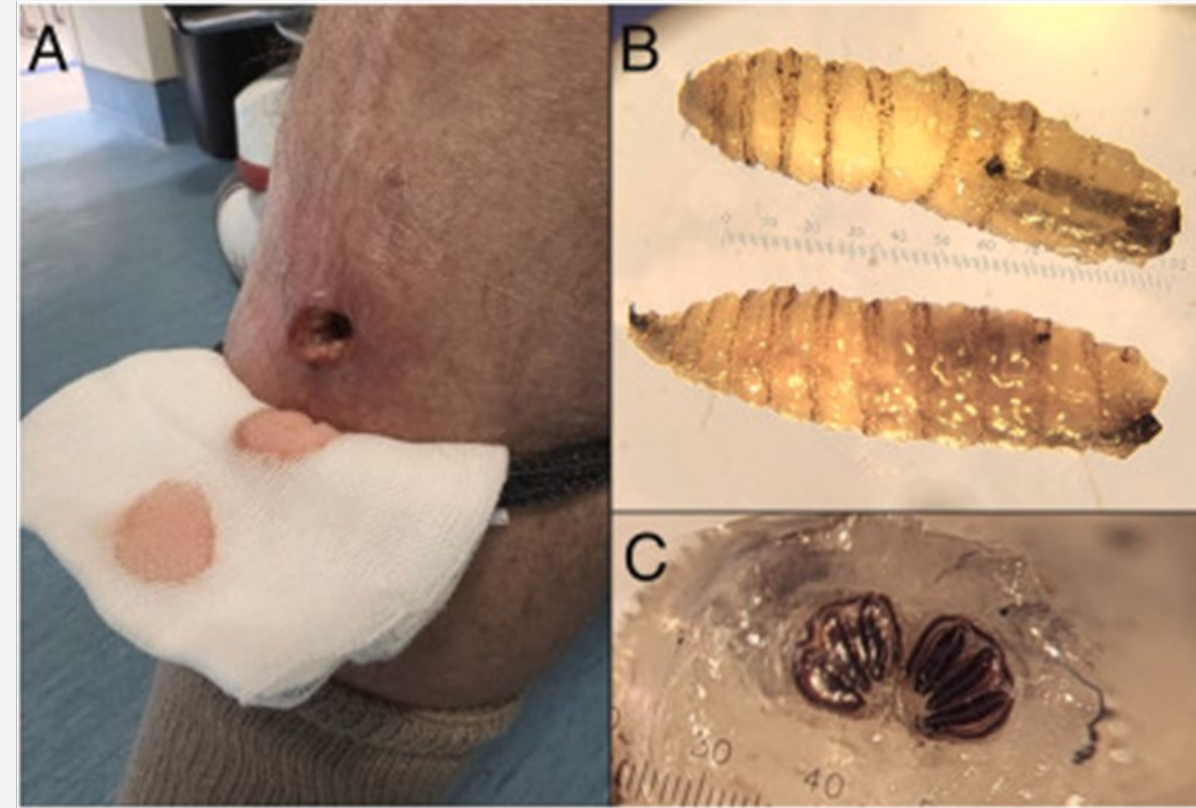


Image: (A) Wound caused by NWS in a traveler; (B and C) NWS larvae recovered from traveler. Source: [New World screwworm \(*Cochliomyia hominivorax*\) infestation in a returned traveller from Costa Rica – ScienceDirect](#). Accessed on June 7, 2026

Risk Factors for Humans

- People at higher risk include those who live in or travel to areas with NWS flies and:
 - Who live, work, or spend an extended amount of time with (or near) warm-blooded animals.
 - Have open sores or wounds, even small wounds such as scratches, insect bites, or recent surgical sites.
 - Spend a lot of time outdoors during the daytime.
 - Are physically or mentally incapacitated and unable to keep flies away.
 - Have medical conditions that can cause chronic open wounds including:
 - A weakened immune system
 - Recent nasal or sinus surgery
 - Diabetes
 - Poor oral hygiene or gingival disease



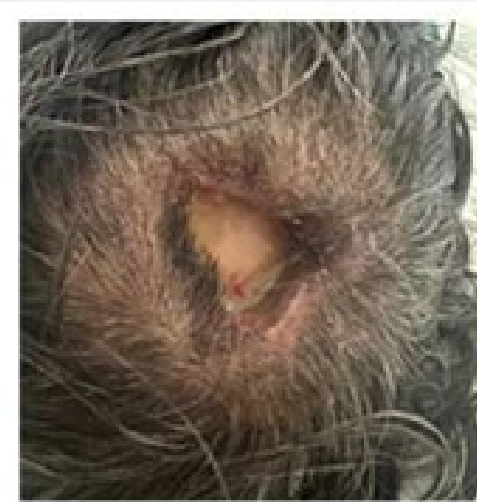
Image: Detail of NWS larva showing the mouth hooks they use to eat living flesh.
Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/new-world-screwworm/situation-summary/index.html> Accessed June 7, 2026

Signs and Symptoms of NWS in Humans

- Soon after the eggs hatch into larvae, the larvae begin to feed in the open wound.
- Patients may feel the larvae move.
- Wounds often demonstrate swelling, bleeding, pain, and a foul odor.
- The larvae are often visible with posterior spiracles exposed.
- The feeding larvae can cause extensive damage within cavities such as the ears, nose, eyes, or mouth.
- A secondary bacterial infection can lead to symptoms like fever or chills.
- ***Death can occur if left untreated when larvae infest vital organs, or from secondary bacterial infections.***



Available at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/new-world-screwworm/media/images/2025/08/anal-spiracular-plates.png>.
Accessed on June 15, 2026.



Available at:
<https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/996426/sem17.pdf>.
Accessed on June 15, 2026.

Diagnosis

- Diagnosis is made by evaluating morphological features of the larvae.
- Differential diagnosis:
 - Other myiasis
 - Bacterial skin infection
 - Tick-bite granuloma
 - Cat-scratch disease



A New World screwworm larva (top) compared with the larger bot fly larva (bottom)
Photo courtesy Mark Fox, CDC

Human NWS Clinical Management

- Currently, there are no U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved medication to treat NWS infestation in humans.
- Treatment:
 - Health care providers should remove and kill ALL visible larvae and eggs in patients with suspected NWS.
 - May require surgical removal and extensive debridement.
 - Failure to kill and properly dispose of all larvae and eggs may result in the introduction and spread of NWS in the local environment.
 - Re-examine treated lesions after 24 – 48 hours to confirm no larvae remain.
 - Monitor for and treat secondary bacterial infections as needed.

Infection Prevention and Control

- **NWS myiasis cannot be transferred by touching the infected wound.**
- In healthcare settings:
 - Implement Standard Precautions.
 - Perform hand hygiene before and after patient and environment contact.
 - Wear gloves for wound care; gowns as needed for larger wounds.
 - Cover any uncovered wounds.
- Larvae Handling
 - Notify infection control/supervisor if live larvae are found.
 - Collect all larvae.
 - Kill and preserve in 70% ethanol (preferred) or 70% isopropanol.
 - Closely inspect linens and patient clothing or belongings for any larvae that may have left the wound.
 - Follow DSHS submission instructions.
 - Do not dispose of live larvae in trash or outside.

Personal Prevention of New World Screwworm

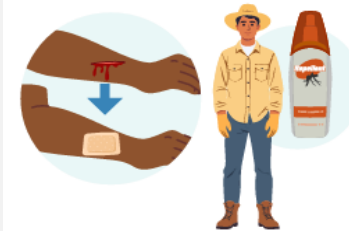
- Avoid NWS flies in areas where the flies are present.
- Keep open wounds clean and covered, no matter how small or location on the body.
- Sleep indoors with closed windows or screened open windows in the daytime- when flies are active. If you are outside, sleep under a bed net or inside a screened tent.
- Protect your skin and prevent insect bites and scrapes by:
 - Using an [EPA-registered insect repellent](#).
 - Treating clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
 - Wearing loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants, hats, and socks to limit access to your body by NWS flies and biting insects.

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/new-world-screwworm/situation-summary/index.html> ; accessed June 18, 2026

Stop New World Screwworm

New World screwworm (NWS) flies lay eggs in open wounds on animals and people. Their maggots eat living flesh, making wounds larger and more painful. Flies can lay eggs in wounds as small as a bug bite.

NWS is a danger to people and animals. Here's how you can help stop the spread of NWS:



Protect your skin.

- Clean and cover any cuts and wounds.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, socks, and hats to prevent bug bites.
- Wear bug repellent spray.
- Do not apply insecticide meant for use on animals to your skin.



Know the symptoms.

- Maggots in wounds or open sores
- Painful or stinky wounds that won't heal
- Movement or an itching sensation in the wound



Get help.

- Tell a supervisor if you see any sign of maggots in people or animals.
- Do not try to remove the maggots yourself.
- See a healthcare provider to get treatment right away if you think you have an NWS infestation.



Available at: [Stop New World Screwworm](#);
accessed June 7, 2026

Learn more:
www.screwworm.gov



CS 30283-A

Situational Update

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
Texas Department of State Health Services

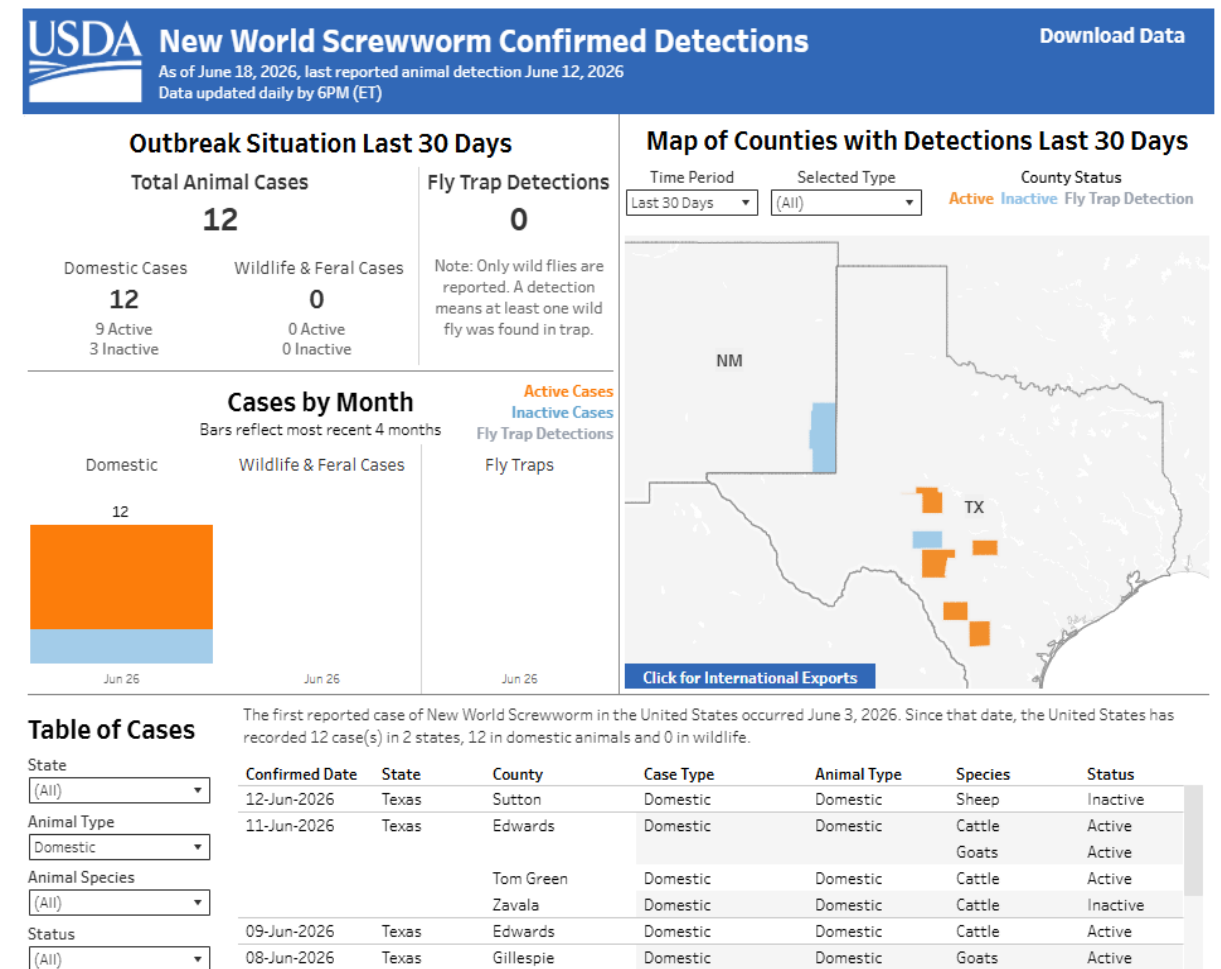


TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

NWS Situational Update

- On June 3, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the first case of NWS in a calf in the United States, Zavala County, Texas.
- As of June 16, 2026, there are **twelve** confirmed animal cases of NWS in the United States, eleven are in Texas.
- Since the first notification,
 - There are 2 additional calves in Zavala county,
 - Two calves in LaSalle county,
 - One goat in Gillespie,
 - One goat and one calf in Edwards,
 - One calf in Tom Green,
 - One sheep in Sutton county, and
 - One dog in New Mexico's Lea county

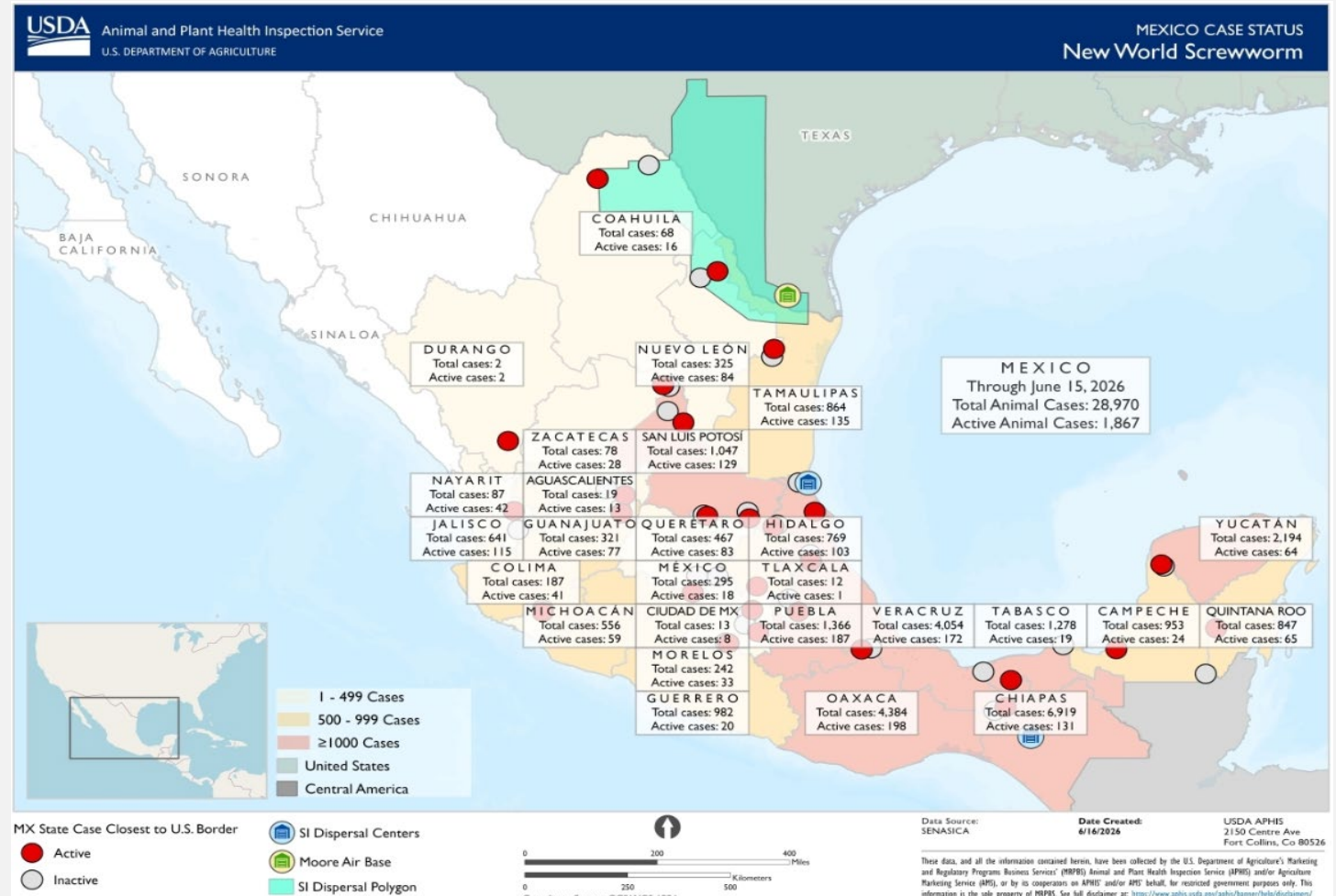


NWS Situational Update

- No locally acquired human NWS cases have been reported in the United States.
- In the United States, the risk of infestation in people remains low. Risk is localized to areas where NWS flies are circulating.
- In Mexico and Central America, more than 185,000 NWS cumulative cases have been reported in animals, and more than 2,100 cases have been reported in people.

Current Status of NWS in Mexico

- As of June 15, 2026, there are:
 - 1,866 currently active animal cases and 29,261 total cumulative cases in Mexico.
- As of June 15, 2026, there have been a total of 412 human cases in Mexico since the first infested animals were identified in November 2024.



Sterile Insect (Fly) Operations

- In the 1970s - 1980s – The eradication efforts required 500 million flies per week.
- The only production facility now is the Panama–United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm Infestation in Livestock (COPEG, located in Panama) who produces 100 million flies per week.
- At the end of June 2026, a second production facility in Metapa, Mexico will begin production of 30 million then up to 100 million sterile flies per week by the end of the year.
- The Moore Field facility in Hildago county is anticipated to start production in the fall of 2027 of 100 million more flies per week.
 - In the year, 2028, an additional 200 million flies will be added per week.
- Additional science-based tools and assets are being developed to expedite response efforts.

Sterile Insect (Fly) Operations

- As part of the established NWS eradication strategy, USDA began releasing sterile flies over the area on June 4. These missions will disperse 2 million sterile screwworms twice a week to disrupt the pest's lifecycle.
- In addition to aerial releases, USDA is shipping another 4 million sterile flies per week to Texas. These will be deployed using 24 ground release chambers, strategically placed in and around the detection zones to maximize impact.

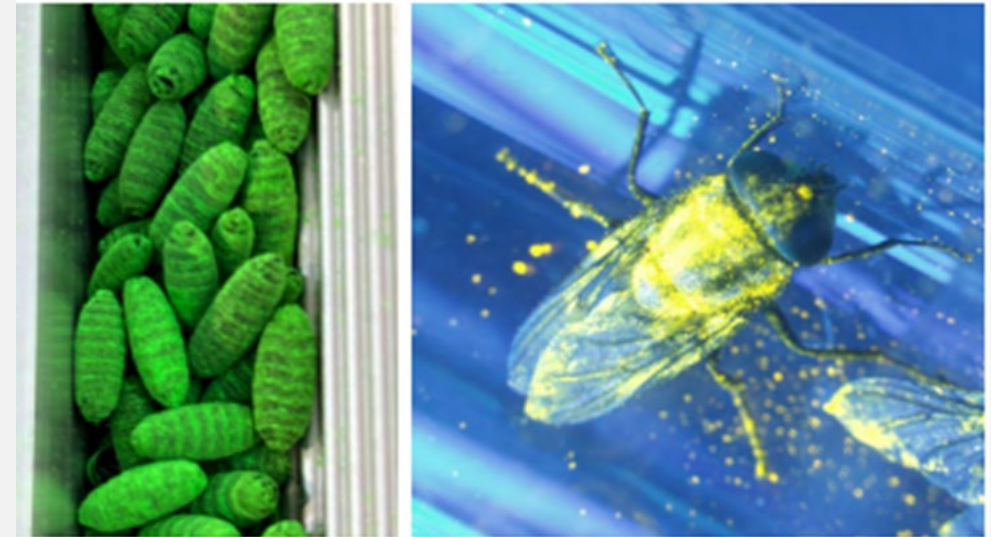


Image: Dyed sterile NWS pupae (left); sterile NWS fly glowing under UV light (right).

Available: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/factsheet-sit-proven-tool-nws.pdf>, accessed on June 18, 2026

Human Case Reporting

Briana O'Sullivan-Kovacs, MPH
Epidemiologist
Department of State Health Services



Human Case Reporting

- Chapter 97 of the Administrative Code (TAC)- control of communicable disease
 - TAC Section 97.2 Who Shall Report

*"A physician... advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or person permitted by law to attend a pregnant woman during gestation or at the delivery of an infant shall report, as required by these sections... and shall report any outbreak, **exotic disease**, or unusual group expression of illness of any kind **whether or not the disease is known to be communicable or reportable**"*
 - TAC Section 97.3 What Condition to Report and What Isolates to Report or Submit

*"(B) In addition to individual case reports, any outbreak, **exotic disease**, or unusual group expression of disease that may be of public health concern **should be reported by the most expeditious means**.*
- NWS myiasis is considered **an exotic disease** in the United States, and suspected human cases should be reported to the appropriate local or regional health department as soon as possible

Human Case Reporting

- Actions taken by health department upon report of suspected human cases.
 - Provide guidance on proper larvae disposal.
 - Facilitate NWS identification through public health laboratories.
 - Teliagnosis available through CDC
 - Sample shipment to state lab in Austin, TX for microscopy
 - Coordinate with CDC, DSHS, and healthcare facility staff on patient management, if needed.
 - Gather exposure information through medical record review and initial patient interview.

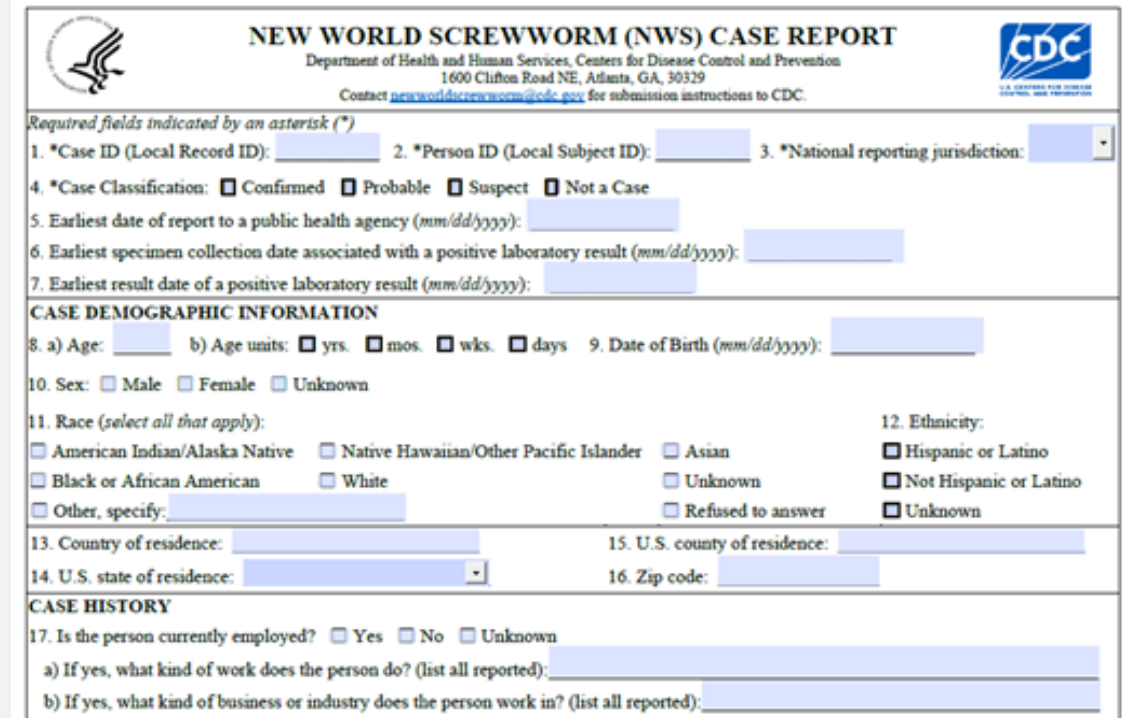


Image: NWS pupae

Available at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm/new-world-screwworm-photo-gallery>. Accessed on June 18, 2026

Human Case Reporting

- Examination of *C. hominivorax* should happen at a public health laboratory (e.g. CDC, DSHS) to ensure experienced staff is making species identification.
 - If ruled out, no further public health involvement is required.
 - If *C. hominivorax* identified, the human case investigation will require further follow up.
 - Human cases confirmed by the CDC will be added to public facing case counts.
- The local health department or regional DSHS staff will interview NWS cases.
 - Tasks:
 - Detailed information on onset, clinical presentation, travel history, and potential exposures will be collected.
 - Identify if it's a locally acquired case and where larvae/pupae might have fallen from infestation site.
 - Information from interview will be shared with agriculture agency partners for NWS response.



The image shows a portion of the 'NEW WORLD SCREWORM (NWS) CASE REPORT' form. At the top, it includes the CDC logo and contact information for the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The form is divided into several sections: 'Required fields indicated by an asterisk (*)', 'CASE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION', and 'CASE HISTORY'. The 'Required fields' section contains items 1 through 7, including Case ID, Person ID, National reporting jurisdiction, Case Classification, and dates of report, specimen collection, and laboratory result. The 'CASE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION' section includes items 8 through 16, covering age, sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and residence. The 'CASE HISTORY' section includes item 17, asking about current employment and work history. The form uses checkboxes for many options and provides text entry fields for specific information.

NEW WORLD SCREWORM (NWS) CASE REPORT
Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA, 30329
Contact newworldscrewworm@cdc.gov for submission instructions to CDC.

Required fields indicated by an asterisk (*)

1. *Case ID (Local Record ID): _____ 2. *Person ID (Local Subject ID): _____ 3. *National reporting jurisdiction: _____

4. *Case Classification: ☐ Confirmed ☐ Probable ☐ Suspect ☐ Not a Case

5. Earliest date of report to a public health agency (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

6. Earliest specimen collection date associated with a positive laboratory result (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

7. Earliest result date of a positive laboratory result (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

CASE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

8. a) Age: _____ b) Age units: ☐ yrs. ☐ mos. ☐ wks. ☐ days 9. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

10. Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Unknown

11. Race (select all that apply):
☐ American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ☐ Asian
☐ Black or African American ☐ White ☐ Unknown
☐ Other, specify: _____ ☐ Refused to answer

12. Ethnicity:
☐ Hispanic or Latino
☐ Not Hispanic or Latino
☐ Unknown

13. Country of residence: _____ 15. U.S. county of residence: _____

14. U.S. state of residence: _____ 16. Zip code: _____

CASE HISTORY

17. Is the person currently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

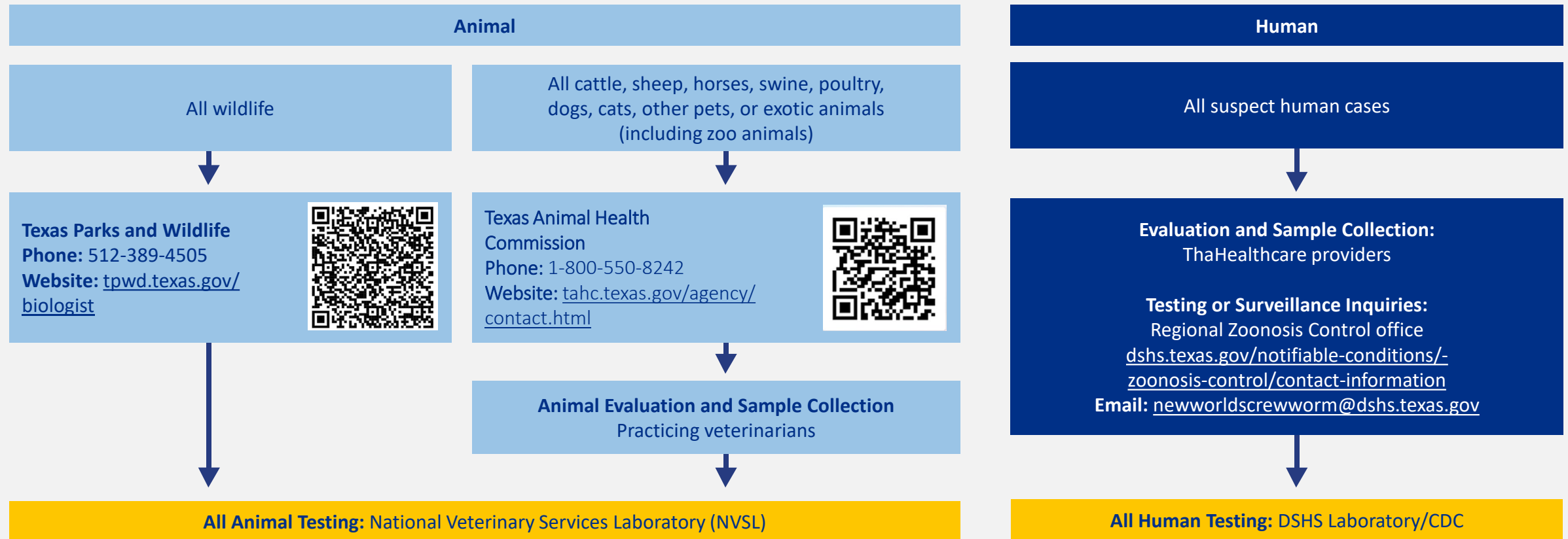
a) If yes, what kind of work does the person do? (list all reported): _____

b) If yes, what kind of business or industry does the person work in? (list all reported): _____

Image: Excerpt from the CDC case report form for human NWS cases
Source: CDC

New World Screwworm (NWS) Reporting Aid for Local Health Departments in Texas

New World screwworm (NWS) is an emerging threat to human and animal health. Health departments may be contacted by medical providers requesting NWS testing or members of the public with questions about NWS. Depending on the situation or animal type, a different Texas agency might need to be contacted to handle that request. This flow chart is intended to help health departments determine which agency should address NWS testing and surveillance questions.



Specimen Identification of New World Screwworm in Humans: Laboratory Submission Guidance

Grace Kubin, PhD
Deputy Commissioner
Public Health Laboratory Division
Texas Department of State Health Services



Laboratory Identification of NWS

- Contact your local public health department if you suspect a human patient has been infested with NWS to arrange for laboratory identification.
- CDC can provide identification of NWS larvae from human cases; DSHS can assist with telediagnosis.
- NWS larvae identification is conducted using a microscope for viewing several characteristic features.

Specimen Collection Guidance

- All larvae extracted from a wound should be immediately placed into a leakproof container with enough 70% ethanol (preferred) or 70% isopropanol to submerge all larvae to kill them.
- After extraction, select 10 larvae for laboratory identification and place them into a second vial with 70% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.
- 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**.
- Link for additional information [New World Screwworm Specimens](#)

Disposal of Remaining Larvae

Failure to kill and properly dispose of all NWS larvae or eggs may introduce NWS into the local environment.

- Submerge all remaining larvae and eggs in 70% ethanol or 70% isopropanol 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, down the sink, outside on the ground.**

Human Specimen Shipping

- Public health, in consultation with CDC, will recommend where to ship specimens
- Ship specimens at ambient temperature as Category B Biological Substance, UN3373
- Specimens must be triple packaged with enough absorbent material to soak up the entire contents of the specimen container.
- Each specimen submitted to DSHS must have a completed G-2B submission form.
- Ensure all tubes are securely closed to prevent leaks and secure tube lids by wrapping in paraffin film.
- Visit DSHS' online [Specimen Shipping and Mailing Guidance](#) for more details.

The DSHS Laboratory Accepts NWS Specimens from Healthcare Providers Only.

If you are not a DSHS submitter, fill out a DSHS [Submitter Identification \(ID\) Number Request Form](#) and email it to the DSHS Laboratory Reporting Group at LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov or fax it to 512-776-7533.

Food Safety

James R. Dillon, DVM, MPH

Director, Texas Meat Safety Assurance

Texas Department of State Health Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Meat Supply

- The food supply is safe from screwworm.
- State or federal meat inspectors examine every animal harvested for entry into commerce.
 - Each of these animals receives an inspection prior to harvest and their carcass is inspected after harvest. Meat processing for products entering commerce is also inspected on every day of production. This ensures that meat products are free from signs of disease or pests, including screwworm.
 - Texas Meat Safety Assurance personnel have increased the frequency of inspections at Custom Exempt Slaughter establishments from quarterly to weekly. Meat products produced under Custom Exemption are for personal use and do not enter commerce.
 - The Texas Meat Safety Assurance personnel are trained to identify suspicious larvae and collaborate with Texas Animal Health Commission to respond appropriately.

Meat Supply

- The Texas Meat Safety Assurance program has distributed educational materials, in both English and Spanish, to 153 slaughter establishments and conducted in-person follow-up visits at 136 establishments across the state.
- There are currently 0 State Inspected Slaughter Establishments in Infested Zones.
- There are currently 3 active State Inspected Slaughter Establishments in Adjacent Surveillance Zones.
- There are currently 0 active Custom Exempt Slaughter Establishments Infested Zones.
- There is currently 1 active Custom Exempt Slaughter Establishment in an Adjacent Surveillance Zone.

Dairy

- All dairies are permitted by the DSHS Texas Milk and Dairy program to be consistent with state and federal standards.
- Permitted producer dairies on the Interstate Milk Shippers list are allowed to sell Texas products across state lines.
 - There are no permitted dairies in Zavala, Sutton, Edwards, La Salle counties.
 - There are 3 producer (pasteurized) dairies in Tom Green county.
 - There is 1 raw for retail dairy in Tom Green county and 1 raw for retail dairy in and Gillespie county.
- There are drugs (similar to ivermectin) which dairy farmers may choose to use on affected cows or calves.
 - There is a withdrawal period (different for each drug) when the dairy will not be allowed to use or sell the milk from that cow. This allows time for the drug to clear from the cow's body.

Resources

Saroj Rai, PhD, MPH

Chief Advisor

Texas Department of State Health Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

DSHS Health Advisory: Raising Awareness about New World Screwworm

Subscribe to our email list

Sign up to receive DSHS email and text updates

Sign up for Updates

 HEALTH ADVISORY

September 26, 2025

Summary

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is raising awareness among public health professionals, human health clinicians, and the public about New World screwworm (NWS), a parasitic fly that can have significant effects on human and animal health. State and federal agencies are preparing for the possible reintroduction of the parasite into the United States. No recent human or animal cases have been identified in Texas, but clinicians should remain vigilant when seeing patients who have traveled in areas where the fly is present and report all suspected NWS cases to their local health department immediately.

Background

New World screwworm myiasis is caused by an infestation with the larvae of *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, a parasitic fly that feeds on live tissue. NWS infestation begins when the fly lays eggs near wounds or on mucous membranes (nose, ears, mouth) of warm-blooded animals. Within a day, multiple eggs can hatch into larvae and begin to feed. People with NWS infestations may report pain and see or feel movement in the affected area. Larvae will drop to the ground after feeding to complete their lifecycle.

NWS infestation cannot spread from one host to another without the completion of the fly's life cycle, which ranges from approximately 14-54 days. NWS has the potential to significantly affect local animal populations, so awareness, surveillance, and control of NWS myiasis and *C. hominivorax* flies in both animals and humans are critical.

NWS was previously eradicated from the United States in the 1960s. Since then, the fly has remained endemic in most of South America, parts of the Caribbean, and southern Panama. In 2023, NWS was detected throughout Central America and was detected in Mexico beginning in November 2024.

There is no immediate risk of infestation to people within the United States; however, travel-related cases have occurred in the past and will continue to be a risk.

Available at: [DSHS Health Advisory: Raising Awareness about New World Screwworm | Texas DSHS](#), accessed on June 18, 2026.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

Once larvae hatch and begin to feed on live flesh, they typically cause a significant amount of pain within the infested wound. Skin wounds and sores will enlarge and deepen over time and be foul-smelling. One to several hundred larvae can often be seen within a few days of hatching and can grow up to 17mm (approx. 2/3 inch) long.



A New World screwworm larva (top) compared with the larger bot fly larva (bottom)
Photo courtesy Mark Fox, CDC



NWS fly with egg mass
Photo courtesy USDA

Assessment

Healthcare providers should consider NWS if their patient:

- Has recently traveled in areas with animal or human cases of NWS.
- Has a very painful and foul-smelling wound with visible larvae.
- Has a particularly deep wound with extensive tissue damage and evidence of larval infestation.

Has an egg mass in or around a wound or opening

Treatment

There is currently no medication approved for treatment of NWS infestation in humans.

- NWS myiasis in humans is treated by removing **ALL** larvae. In some cases, surgical removal may be necessary since larvae can burrow deep into wounds to feed. Healthcare providers should be aware of the potential for secondary bacterial infections with NWS myiasis and patients should be assessed clinically for signs of bacterial infection.
 - Larvae and eggs should be killed by placing them into a leak-proof container with 70% ethanol. The volume of liquid in the container should be enough to fully submerge the larvae.
 - Do not dispose of extracted larvae or eggs in the trash or on the ground without first killing the larvae.
 - Re-examine treated lesions after 24 to 48 hours to confirm no live larvae remain.



Available at: [Resurgence of New World Screwworm in the Americas: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know](#) | COCA | CDC, accessed on June 18, 2026.

Resurgence of New World Screwworm in the Americas: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know

For Health Care Providers
OCTOBER 17, 2024

AT A GLANCE

During this COCA Call, a subject matter expert will outline the biology and life cycle of *C. hominivorax*, explain the current epidemiology in Central America, review guidance on how to identify infestations, and discuss how to appropriately manage and report cases of NWS in humans.

Webinar



From a US national health authority

Resurgence of New World Screwworm in the Americas: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know



Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call

Thursday, October 17, 2024



Watch on YouTube

[View Slides](#) PDF
[Transcript](#) PDF

ON THIS PAGE

- Webinar
- Overview
- Presenters
- Call Objectives
- Additional Resources
- Continuing Education
- Target Audience
- Additional Information

RELATED PAGES

- [COCA Calls](#)
- [Updated Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Use](#)



Texas Department of State Health Services

New World Screwworm: Outbreak Moves into Northern Mexico

JAN. 20, 2026

AT A GLANCE

- Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network
- January 20, 2026, 12:30 PM ET
- CDCHAN-00526



Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to share information and notify clinicians, public health authorities, and the public about recent New World screwworm (NWS) animal cases in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, which shares a border with the U.S. state of Texas. No NWS infestations related to this outbreak have been identified in people or animals in the United States as of January 20, 2026. However, given the potential for geographic spread, CDC is issuing this Health Advisory to increase awareness of the outbreak and to summarize CDC recommendations for clinicians and health departments in the United States on case identification and reporting, specimen collection, diagnosis, and treatment of NWS, as well as guidance for the public.

Background

ON THIS PAGE

- Summary
- Background
- Recommendations for Clinicians
- Recommendations for Health Departments
- Recommendations for Laboratories
- Recommendations for the Public
- Recommendations for Veterinarians
- For More Information

Recommendations for Clinicians

Clinical presentation and guidance

- Consider NWS in people who present with any of the following:
 - Visible larvae or egg masses in a wound, ears, eyes, nose, mouth, or other body orifice (e.g., genitals).
 - Destruction of healthy tissue.
 - Sensation of movement, foul odor, bloody discharge, swelling, and pain.
 - Recent travel to [regions where NWS is present](#)
- In areas where NWS is present, advise patients to:
 - Clean and cover all wounds, no matter how small or the location on the body.
 - Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants, socks, and hats to limit exposed skin and use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#).
 - If possible, avoid spending time where livestock are located or housed in rural areas.
 - Avoid sleeping outdoors, especially during daytime hours when NWS flies are most active.
 - Use bed nets to protect sleeping quarters from insects if windows are left open and not screened. In hospitals, screening windows and doors is essential.

Reporting to public health

- Immediately report all suspected human cases** to your [state, tribal, local, or territorial health department](#), and work with your health department to seek confirmatory diagnosis with CDC's Diagnostic Parasitology Lab (DPDx).
- Direct clinical inquiries and patient management-related questions to your health department or to CDC's Parasitic Diseases Hotline (404-718-4745 or parasites@cdc.gov) during business hours, or to CDC's Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) after regular business hours.
- Non-clinical questions can be directed to newworldscrewworm@cdc.gov.

Patient management and specimen submission

RELATED PAGES

- [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Archive](#)
- [HAN-00528: 2026 Multi-country Hantavirus Cluster Linked to Cruise...](#)
- [HAN-00527: Medetomidine in the U.S. Illegal Fentanyl Supply Increasing Ris...](#)
- [HAN-00525: First Reported Outbreak Caused by Marburg Virus in Ethiopia](#)
- [HAN-00524: Ebola Outbreak](#)

VIEW ALL
HAN



Communication Resources

AT A GLANCE

This page provides information so health care providers, public health agencies and the public can know the signs of New World screwworm and how to avoid it.



For everyone

New World screwworm: What You Need to Know [PDF](#)

[Download](#)

Information on the signs and symptoms of New World Screwworm and how to prevent it.

Miasis por el gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo: Lo que debe saber [PDF](#)

[Download](#)

Información sobre los signos y síntomas del gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo y cómo prevenirlo.

Stop New World screwworm: agriculture employees [PDF](#)

[Download](#)

Information on how agriculture employees can stop New World screwworm.

Detenga al gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo (empleados) [PDF](#)

[Download](#)

Información sobre cómo los empleados agrícolas pueden detener al gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo

Stop New World screwworm: agriculture producers [PDF](#)

[Download](#)

Information on how agriculture producers can help stop New World screwworm

Detenga al gusano barrenador del Nuevo Mundo (supervisor) [PDF](#)

[Download](#)

Información sobre cómo los productores agrícolas pueden detener al gusano

ON THIS PAGE

For everyone

[For healthcare providers](#)[For public health professionals](#)

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Available at:
[Communication
Resources | New World
Screwworm | CDC](#),
accessed on June 18,
2026.

Resources

- [New World Screwworm Outbreak | New World Screwworm | CDC](#)
- [New World screwworm: What You Need to Know](#)
- [New World screwworm: Recommendations for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Resurgence of New World Screwworm in the Americas: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know | COCA | CDC](#)
- [Lab Identification of New World screwworm](#)
- [Screwworm.gov | Unified Government Response To Protect the United States](#)
- [The Facts About New World Screwworm](#)
- [Report Suspected Cases of Screwworm | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
- [Confirmed Detections of New World Screwworm | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)

Summary

Varun Shetty, MD, MBA, MS

Chief State Epidemiologist

Texas Department of State Health Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

DSHS State and Federal Partner Coordination

- Texas Animal Health Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Texas A&M AgriLife
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)

Summary

- The food supply is safe.
- NWS infestation can be prevented.
- Human cases can occur in areas where the flies are circulating and laying eggs.
- Healthcare providers must handle larvae appropriately and send for identification.
- Treatment requires extraction of *all* NWS larvae.
- DSHS continues to partner with state and federal agencies in prevention and management of NWS cases.

Q&A



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Closing Remarks

Varun Shetty, MD, MBA, MS
Chief State Epidemiologist
Texas Department of State Health Services

Questions

Please send any questions to: newworldscrewworm@dshs.texas.gov

Thank you