

# Emerging and Infectious Diseases Update

February 11, 2026

# **DISCLAIMER**

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

February 11, 2026

# Emerging Pathogens Discussion Topics

- 2025-26 Respiratory Virus Season
- New World Screwworm (NWS)



Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# 2025-2026 Respiratory Virus Season



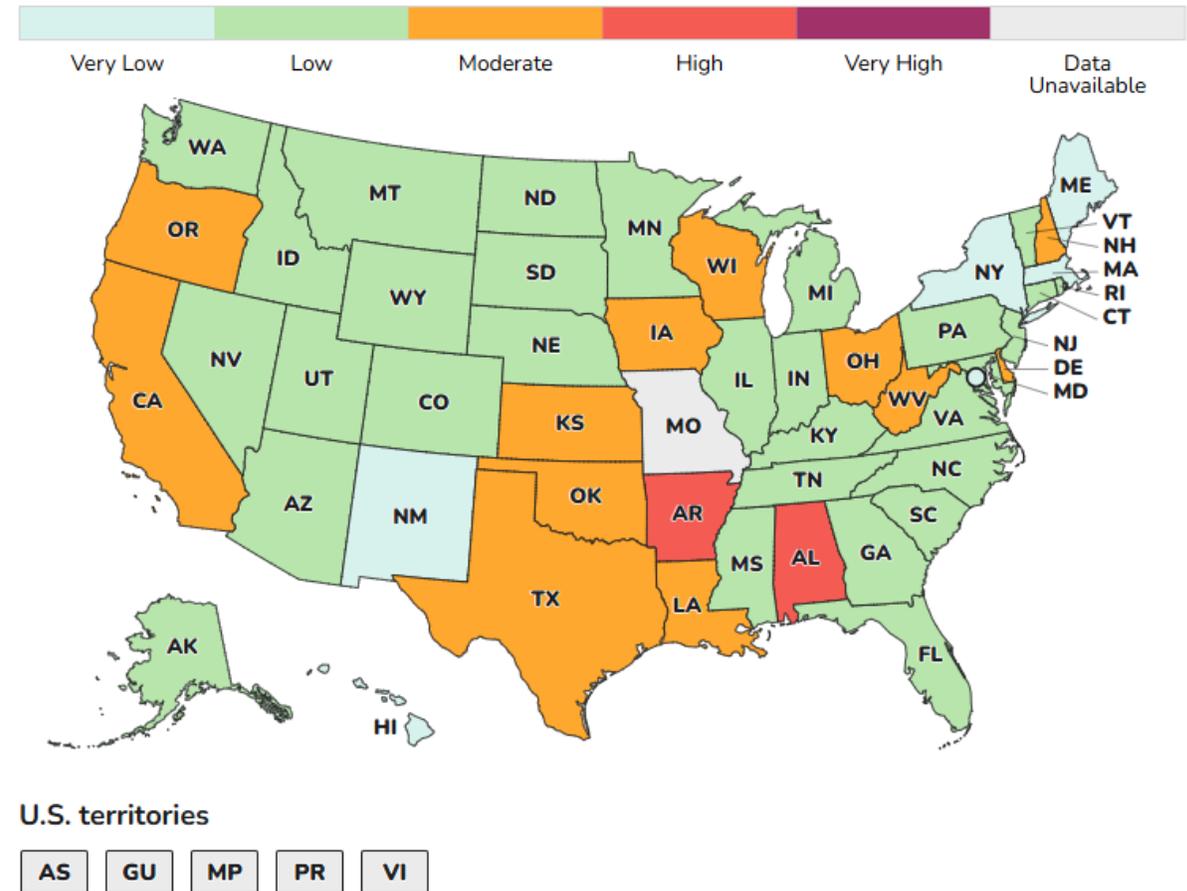
**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# 2025-26 Respiratory Virus – United States

- As of February 6, 2026, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) is reporting the amount of acute respiratory illness causing people to seek health care is **moderate**.
  - Seasonal influenza activity remains elevated across the country with most areas of the country reporting stable or decreasing trends.
  - RSV activity is elevated in many areas of the country.
  - COVID-19 activity is elevated in some parts of the country.
- CDC's season outlook continues to expect that the fall and winter respiratory disease season in the United States will likely have a similar number of combined peak hospitalizations due to COVID-19, influenza, and RSV compared to last season.

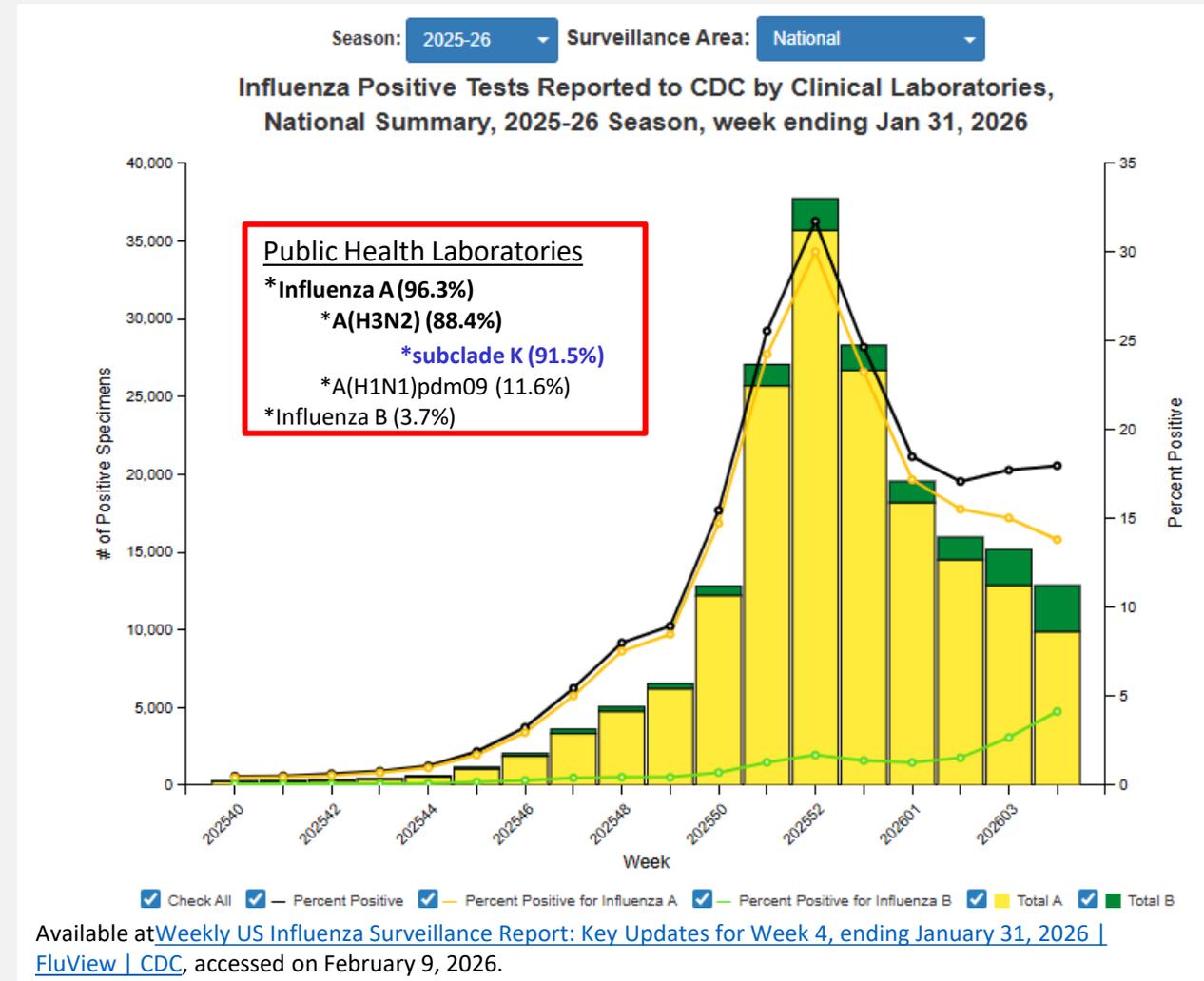
Acute Respiratory Illness



Available at: [Respiratory Virus Activity Levels](#) | [Respiratory Illnesses](#) | CDC, accessed on February 9, 2026.

# Influenza A(H3N2) subclade J.2.4.1 (subclade K) United States

- Influenza A(H3N2) viruses are the most frequently reported influenza viruses so far this season in the United States.
  - Among 822 influenza A(H3N2) viruses characterized at CDC since September 28, 2025, 91.5% belonged to subclade K.
- In recent weeks, influenza B is increasing nationally and in most areas of the country; however, trends vary by region.



# Texas Influenza Surveillance

## Texas Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report 2025-2026 Season 2026 MMWR Week 04

(January 25, 2026 – January 31, 2026)  
Report produced on February 06, 2026

Table 3: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Public Health Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 04	Season to Date Week Ending: January 31, 2026
Number of labs reporting flu tests	7	
Number of specimens tested	133	1,683
Number of positive specimens (%)	<b>95 (71.43%)</b>	<b>957 (56.86%)</b>
<b>Positive specimens by type/subtype/lineage [n (%)]</b>		
<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>90 (94.74%)</b>	<b>904 (94.56%)</b>
Subtyping performed	90 (100.00%)	876 (96.90%)
A (H1N1)	24 (26.67%)	133 (15.18%)
A (H3N2)	66 (73.33%)	743 (84.82%)
Subtyping not performed	0 (0.00%)	28 (3.10%)
<b>Influenza B</b>	<b>5 (5.26%)</b>	<b>51 (5.33%)</b>
Lineage testing performed	5 (100.00%)	43 (84.31%)
B/Victoria	5 (100.00%)	43 (100.00%)
B/Yamagata	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Lineage testing not performed	0 (0.00%)	8 (15.69%)
<b>Other*</b>	<b>0 (0.00%)</b>	<b>2 (0.21%)</b>

\*Other denotes specimens with coinfections (i.e. one specimen was positive for both influenza A (H1N1) and influenza A (H3N2))

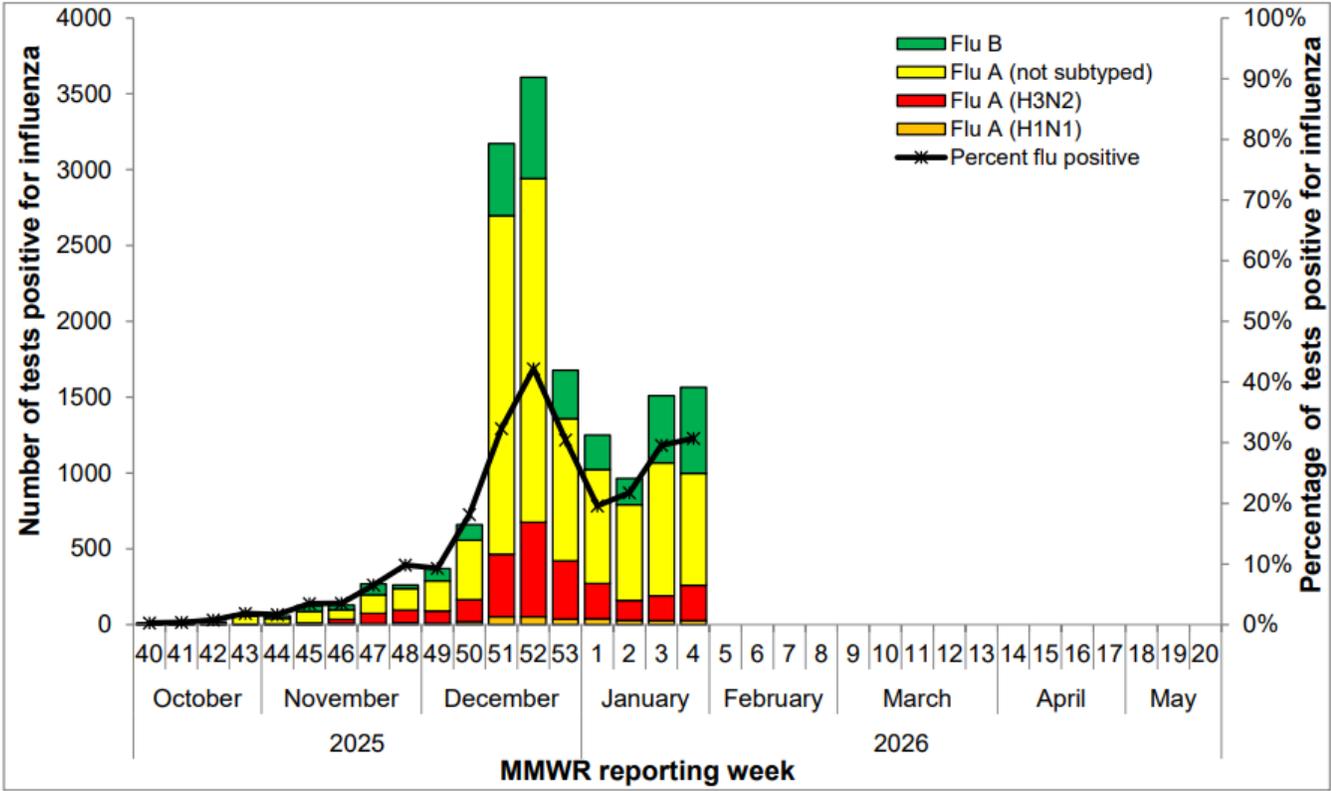
Available at: [Texas Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report | MMWR Week 04, 2026 | 02.06.2026](#), accessed on February 10, 2026.



# Texas Influenza Surveillance

## Texas Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report 2025-2026 Season 2026 MMWR Week 04 (January 25, 2026 – January 31, 2026) Report produced on February 06, 2026

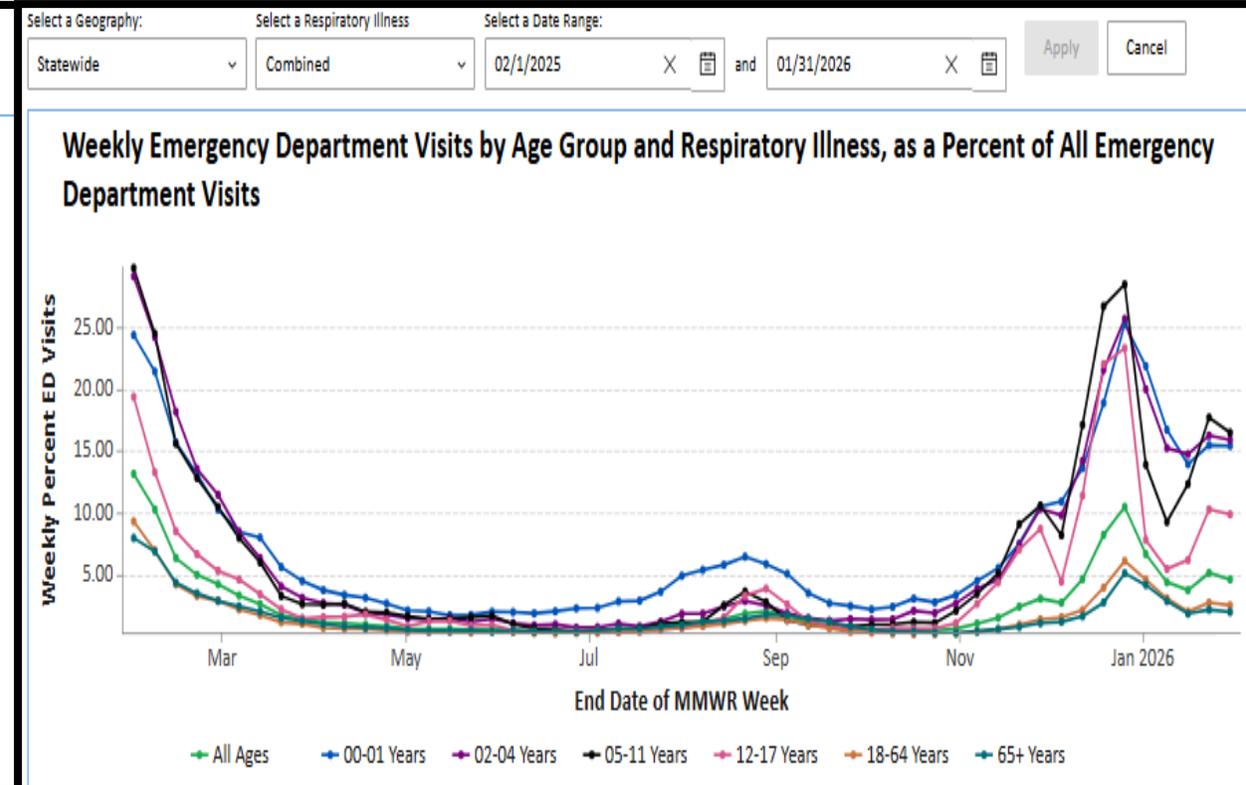
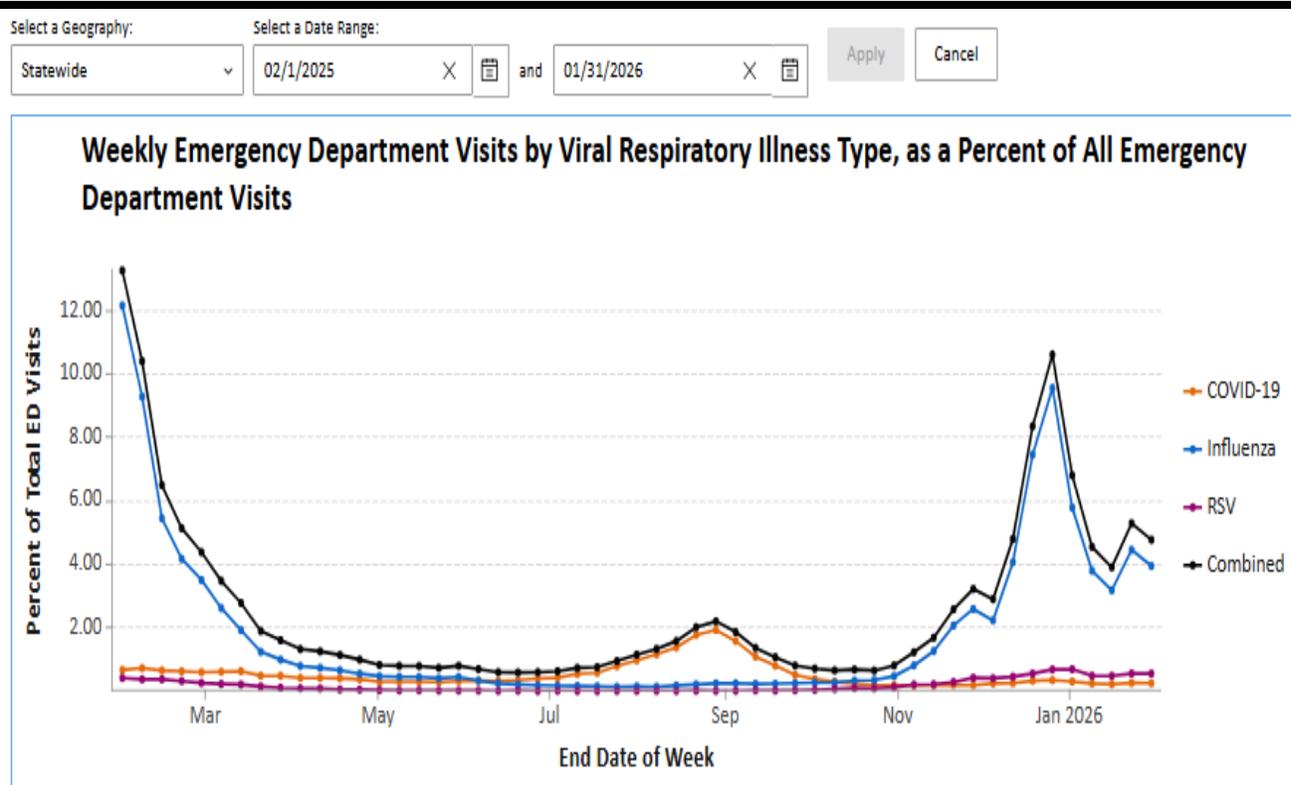
Figure 1: Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype Reported by Texas Hospital Laboratories, 2025-2026 Season



Available at: [Texas Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report | MMWR Week 04, 2026 | 02.06.2026](#), accessed on February 10, 2026.



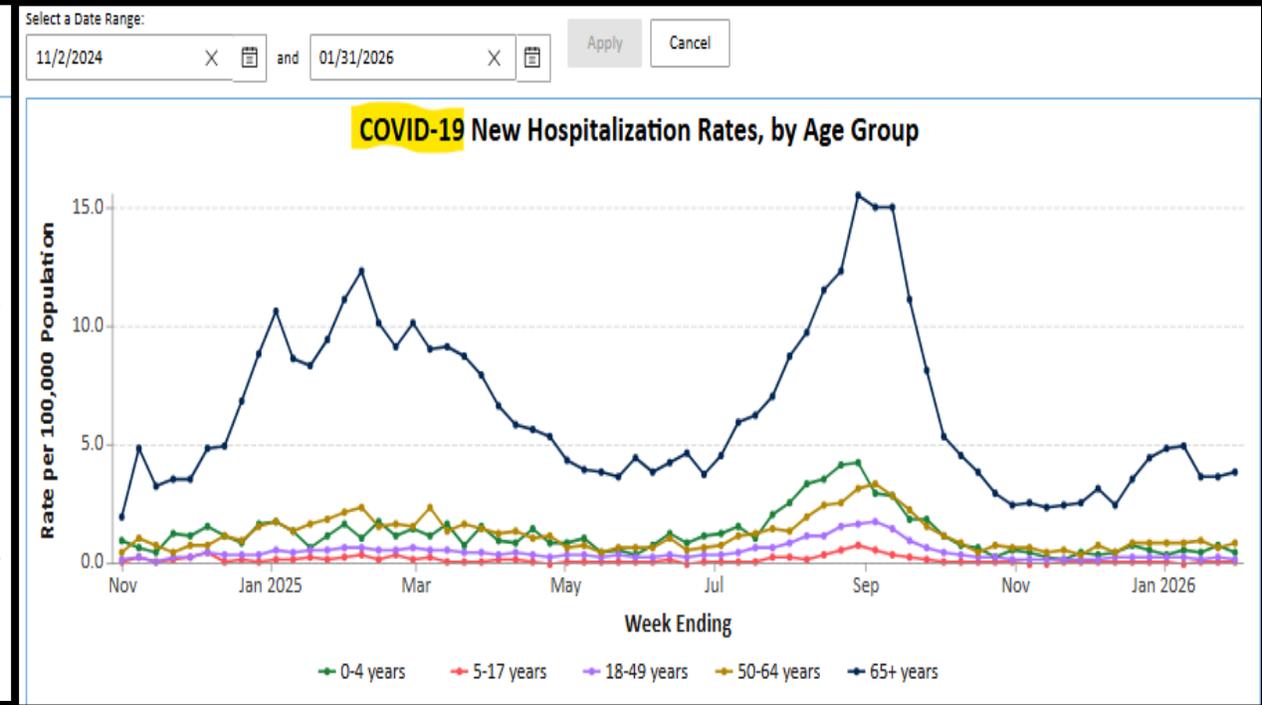
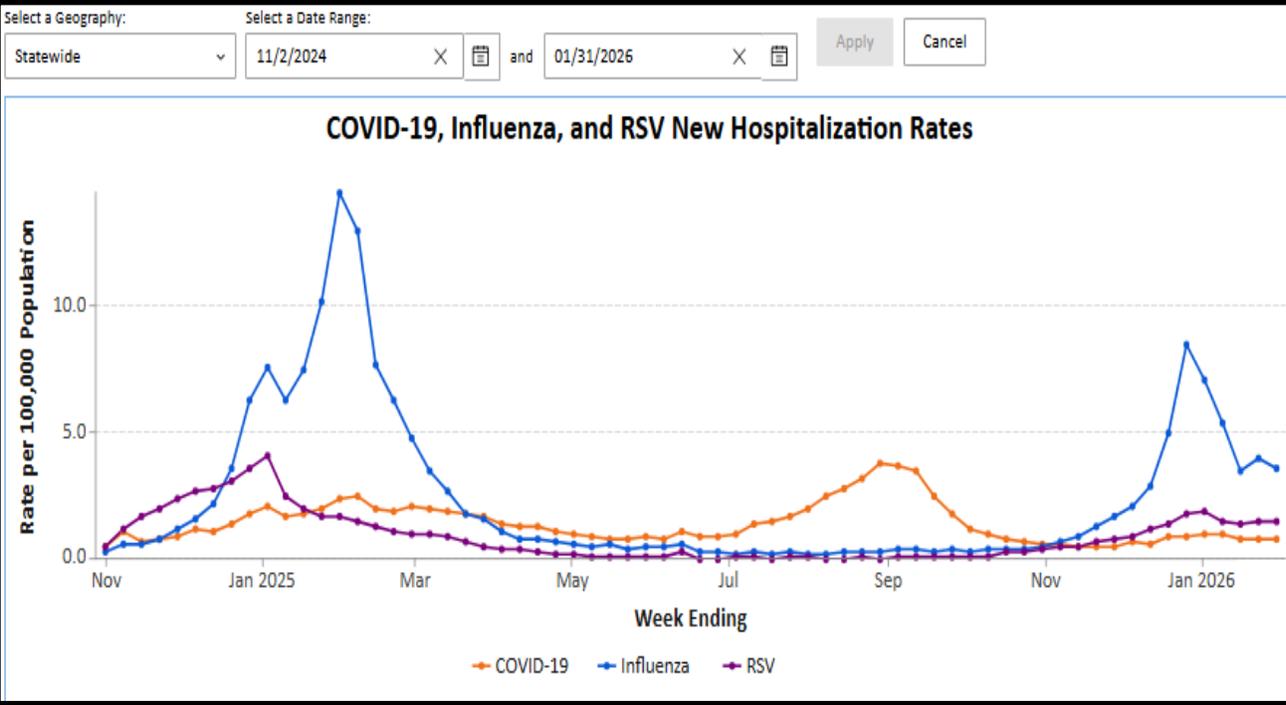
# Texas Respiratory Virus Illnesses



Available at: [TX Respiratory Illness Dashboard: Emergency Department Visits](#) | [Texas Respiratory Illnesses Dashboard](#), accessed on February 9, 2026.

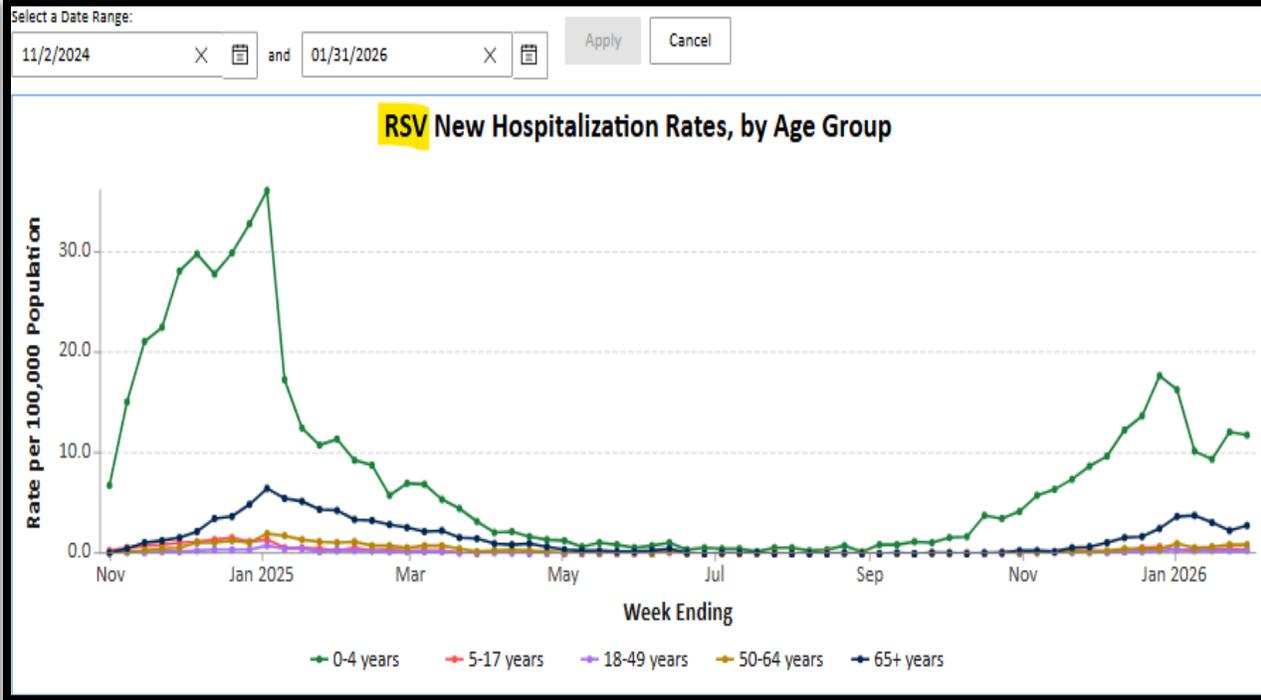
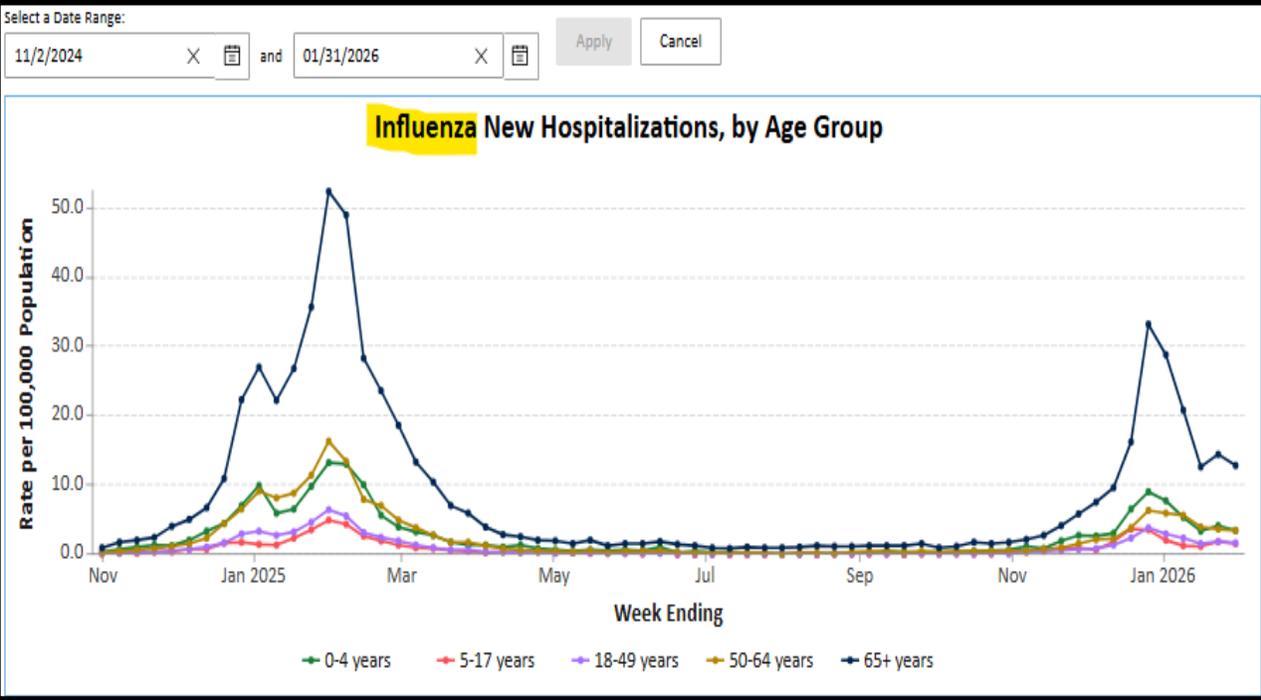
Effective September 2, 2025, 73 healthcare facilities in the Houston area were integrated into Texas Syndromic Surveillance (TxS2) ESSENCE platform. This change improves the representativeness of data in the state.

# Texas Respiratory Virus Illnesses



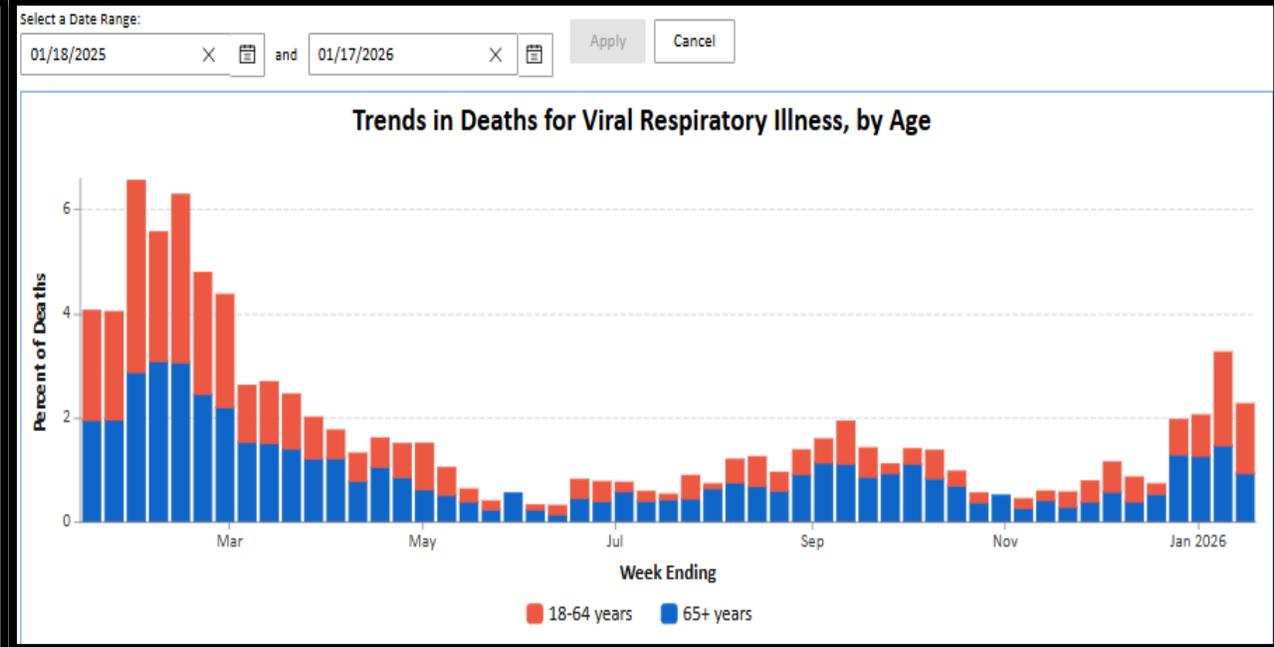
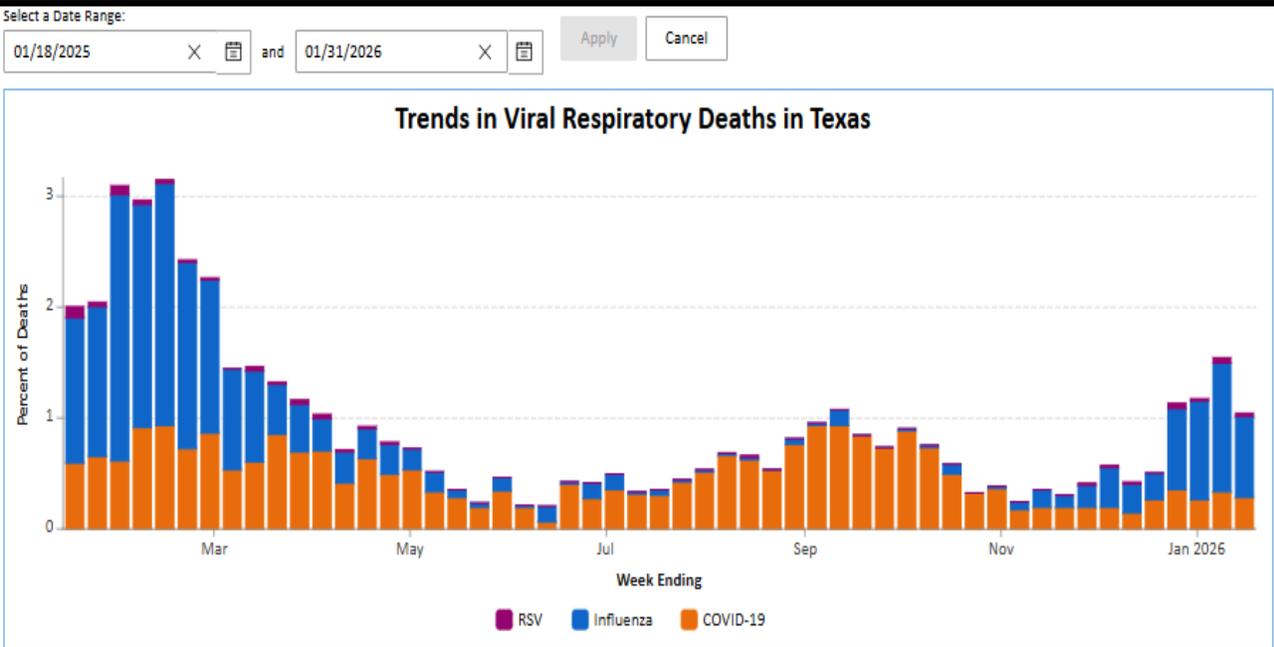
Available at: [TX Respiratory Illness Dashboard: Current Hospitalizations Data](#) | [Texas Respiratory Illnesses Dashboard](#), accessed on February 9, 2026.

# Texas Respiratory Virus Illnesses



Available at: [TX Respiratory Illness Dashboard: Current Hospitalizations Data](#) | [Texas Respiratory Illnesses Dashboard](#), accessed on February 9, 2026.

# Texas Respiratory Virus Illnesses



Available at: [TX Respiratory Illness Dashboard: Viral Respiratory Deaths](#) | [Texas Respiratory Illnesses Dashboard](#), accessed on February 9, 2026.

# New World Screwworm



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# About New World Screwworm (NWS)

- New World screwworm (NWS) infestation occurs when NWS fly larvae (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) infest the tissue or flesh of warm-blooded animals and people, a process called **myiasis**.
- Screwworm flies are attracted to and lay eggs on and in open wounds.
- The name screwworm refers to the feeding behavior of the larvae (maggots) as they burrow (screw) into healthy tissue.
- NWS was eradicated from the US in 1960s and from Mexico in the 1980s using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).
- NWS is currently endemic in South America, Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.



Image: An adult New World screwworm fly

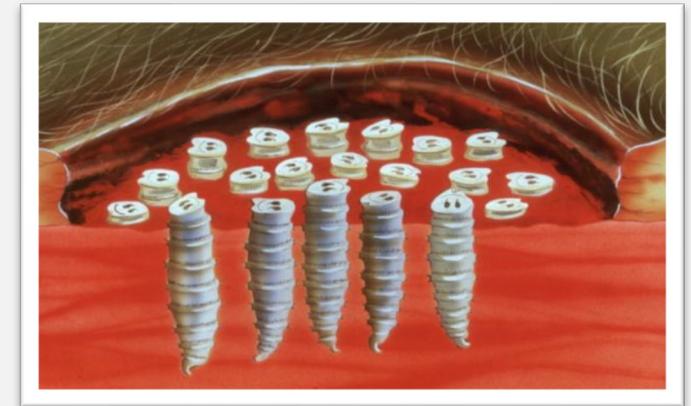
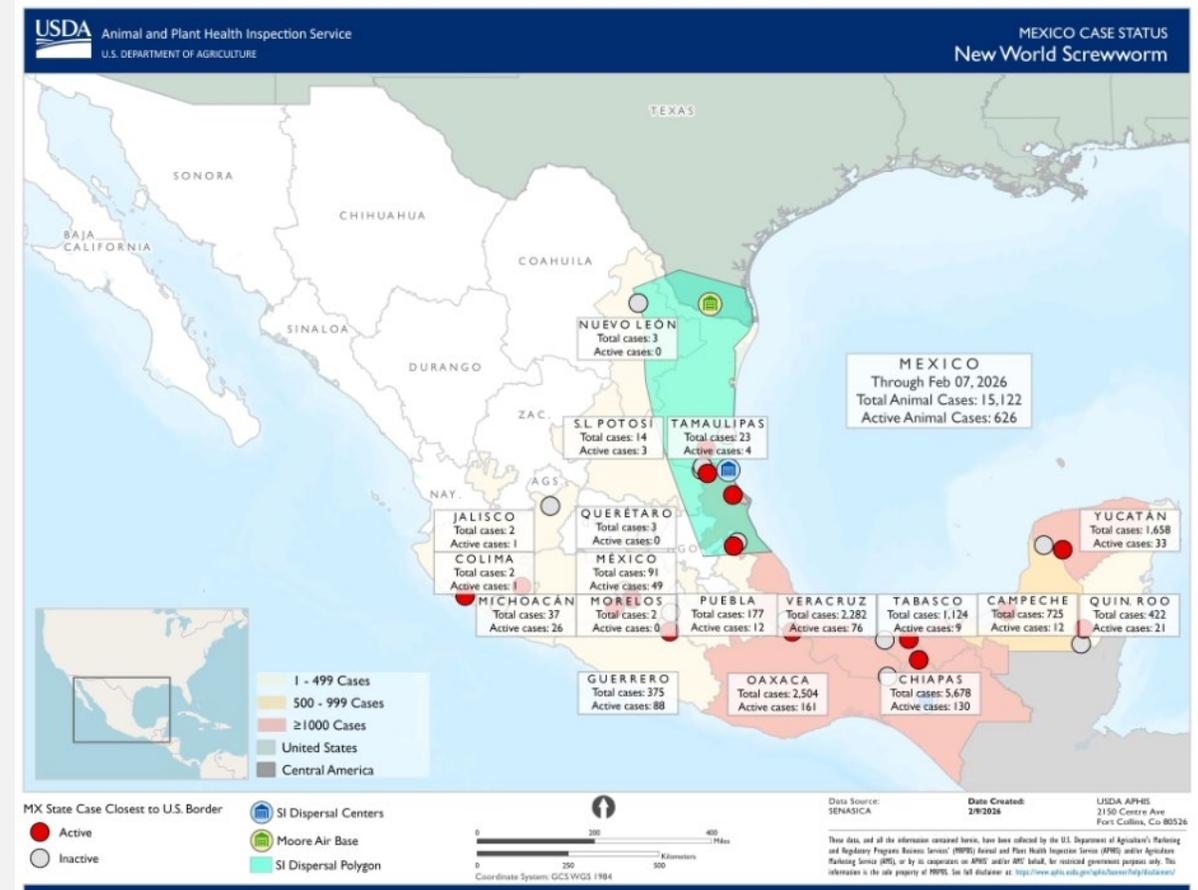


Image: an NWS infestation



# Current Status of NWS

- Currently, the New World screwworm (NWS) fly is not present in the United States and there are no cases of NWS in the United States.
- As of February 9, 2026, there has been 23 recent animal cases in Tamaulipas. The closest is about 250 miles from Brownsville.
- There are 628 currently active animal cases in Mexico and 15,277 total cumulative.
- As of February 9, 2026, there have been a total of 141 human cases in Mexico
  - Chiapas-103, Campeche-4, Tabasco-2, Yucatan-16, Oaxaca-6, Quintana Roo- 6, Veracruz- 2, and Guerrero- 2



Available at: [Microsoft PowerPoint - Boletín 52](#), accessed February 10, 2026

Available at: [Current Status of New World Screwworm | Screwworm.gov](#), Accessed on February 10, 2026

Available at: [Mexico Senasica Current Screwworm Cases](#); accessed on February 9, 2026

# Current Situation of NWS

- On January 20, 2026, Centers for Disease Control and Prevent (CDC) issued a health advisory: [New World Screwworm: Outbreak Moves into Northern Mexico](#)
- On January 29, 2026, Governor Abbott issued a disaster [Declaration](#) to prevent NWS fly infestation.
  - “A proclamation certifying that the northward spread of parasitic fly commonly known as the New World Screwworm from Central and South America toward the U.S. southern border threatens the state’s livestock industry and economy and poses an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage and declaring a state of disaster for all Texas counties.”

## 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.

### ON THIS PAGE

- [Summary](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Recommendations for Clinicians](#)
- [Recommendations for Health Departments](#)
- [Recommendations for Laboratories](#)
- [Recommendations for the Public](#)
- [Recommendations for Veterinarians](#)

# Current Situation of NWS

- On January 30, 2026, USDA [announced](#) a shift in its 100 million per week sterile fly dispersal efforts to stop the northern spread of NWS.
  - USDA will reallocate aircraft and sterile insects to reinforce coverage along the U.S.-Mexico border.
  - The new dispersal area, or polygon, will include operations about 50 miles into Texas, along the U.S. border with the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico.
  - Mass production and targeted dispersal of sterile insects are critical components of an effective strategy to fight NWS.
  - To ensure officials can tell the difference between sterile and wild NWS flies, USDA will dye the sterile pupae, and the dye will transfer to the sterile flies when they hatch.
    - The fluorescent dye will glow under UV light and may also be visible to the naked eye. If a sterile fly is captured in a trap, this dye will allow animal health officials to quickly rule the fly out as a threat.

# Sterile Fly Dispersal Facility

[View as a webpage](#) / [Share](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Office of Communications | [press@usda.gov](mailto:press@usda.gov)

## USDA Announces Completion of Sterile Fly Dispersal Facility in Texas

*Facility will increase range of sterile fly release and bolster preparedness for New World Screwworm*

Available at: [USDA Announces Completion of Sterile Fly Dispersal Facility in Texas](#), Accessed on February 10, 2026

## NEW WORLD SCREWORM

### STERILE FLY DISPERSAL FACILITY GRAND OPENING

JOIN U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
**BROOKE L. ROLLINS**  
AND SPECIAL GUEST GOVERNOR  
**GREG ABBOTT**

*FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> 1:30PM CT*  
**McALLEN, TEXAS**

**Moore Air Field**  
22675 N Moorefield Rd,  
Edinburg, TX 78539

INVITATION IS NON-TRANSFERABLE

# DSHS Laboratory Specimen Submission Guidance for New World Screwworm

January 2026

## DSHS Laboratory Specimen Submission Guidance for New World Screwworm (NWS) Specimen Identification

Immediately Report all Human NWS Cases to [Your Local Health Department](#). Report Animal Cases to the [State Animal Health Official \(SAHO\)](#).

### 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 Youssef-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 Does Not Accept NWS Specimens from the Public.



January 2026

## Completing G-2B Submission Forms for New World Screwworm (NWS) Specimens 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 ID.	
Last Name <b>Snow</b>	First Name <b>John</b>
Address <b>39 Broad Street</b>	Phone Number
City <b>Austin</b>	State <b>TX</b>
Zip Code <b>78756</b>	Pregnant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
DOB <b>02/19/1993</b>	Sex <b>M</b>
Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic	Other
SECTION 3. SPECIMEN	
NOTE: If the Date of Collection field is not completed, the specimen will be rejected.	
Date of Collection <b>12/21/2024</b>	Time of Collection <b>08:29 a.m.</b>
Unique Identification Number <b>06161858</b>	Comments or Additional e.g., QIC ID, Previous DSHS ID

### Select Test Type in Section 4.3

- Check "Worm Identification" or "New World Screwworm."

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

### 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"/> Wt
<input type="checkbox"/> Throat Swab	<input type="checkbox"/> Ot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worm (site)	<b>R. leg</b>

### Questions About . . .

NWS Testing/Identification: 512-776-7560 or [Medical.Parasitology@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Medical.Parasitology@dshs.texas.gov)  
 NWS Case Reporting: [Local Health Department Contact List](#)  
 Submitter ID Numbers or Submission Forms: 512-776-7578 or [LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov)  
 Overnight Shipping Address: Salvador Arreola, Texas Dept. of State Health Services, Public Health Laboratory Division, 1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199

January 2026

## New World Screwworm (NWS) Specimen FAQs for Submitting to the DSHS Austin Laboratory for Identification

The Laboratory does not accept NWS specimens from the public.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov) or calling 512-776-7578 or 1 (888) 963-7111 ext. 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 can 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.

### Questions About . . .

NWS Testing/Identification: 512-776-7560 or [Medical.Parasitology@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Medical.Parasitology@dshs.texas.gov)  
 NWS Case Reporting: [Local Health Department Contact List](#)  
 Overnight Shipping Address: Salvador Arreola, Texas Dept. of State Health Services, Public Health Laboratory Division, 1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199



TEXAS Health and Human Services  
 Texas Department of State Health Services

[dshs.texas.gov](http://dshs.texas.gov)



TEXAS Health and Human Services  
 Texas Department of State Health Services

[dshs.texas.gov](http://dshs.texas.gov)



TEXAS Health and Human Services  
 Texas Department of State Health Services

[dshs.texas.gov](http://dshs.texas.gov)

**Thank you**