



Public Health Advisory
01/26/2026

New World Screwworm Cases near the U.S. Southern Border

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partner agencies are monitoring a resurgent outbreak of New World screwworm (NWS; *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in northern Mexico. NWS is a parasitic fly whose larvae infest living tissue of warm-blooded animals and humans (myiasis), causing painful and potentially fatal wounds if untreated. It primarily affects livestock but can also affect pets and humans. Animal cases have been reported in Tamaulipas, Mexico and other northern Mexican states near the U.S. southern border.

- No human or animal cases have been confirmed in the U.S. in 2026, and surveillance in U.S. border states remains high.
- The overall risk to the general U.S. population remains low at this time.

SNHD is issuing this health advisory to inform healthcare providers of clinical presentation, management, reporting, and public health actions.

1) Key Clinical Features of NWS Myiasis:

- Wounds, sores, or orifices (eyes, nose, ears, mouth, genitals) with visible larvae** or egg masses.
- Painful**, foul odor, with tissue destruction, swelling, discharge, or a sensation of movement in wound.
- Relevant exposure:** recent travel to affected regions such as Mexico and Central America or close contact with livestock or open wounds.

2) Treatment:

- Remove all larvae and eggs, surgical extraction if needed.
- Wound debridement and irrigation as needed.
- Assess and manage secondary bacterial infections.

3) Infection Control:

- Remove all larvae and eggs, surgical extraction if needed.
- Wound debridement and irrigation as needed.
- Treat secondary bacterial infections.
- For visible larvae:
 - Submit specimens for identification/testing.
 - For any remaining larvae, **do not discard in trash without first killing the larvae:**
 - Submerge completely in 70% ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, or bleach then dispose of container in regulated waste.
 - Place killed larvae in regulated medical waste; do not crush larvae.**

4) Testing: Visual identification of larvae is critical.

- Collect ≥ 10 larvae if possible and preserve in 70% ethanol (preferred) or isopropanol/formalin.
- Coordinate with SNHD (702-759-1300) before submission to CDC or reference lab for confirmatory testing.

5) Report Suspected Cases per [NAC 441A](#): Do not wait for laboratory confirmation. Call SNHD Division of Disease Surveillance & Control 24/7: (702) 759-1300. SNHD can assist with specimen submission and coordinate confirmatory testing.

Key Clinical Note:

NWS larvae can grow up to ~17 mm long and emerge from wounds to complete their lifecycle. Infestations rapidly worsen without prompt treatment.

Provider Recommendation: Maintain high suspicion in patients with relevant exposure history and unusual wound findings; escalate to public health authorities for coordination.

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