

## NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT New World Screwworm: Current Status

February 26, 2026

### Background:

The New Mexico Department of Health is encouraging healthcare providers and veterinarians to become familiar with New World Screwworm (NWS) myiasis and to consider this diagnosis when assessing patients with compatible clinical signs and risk factors.

NWS myiasis is a re-emerging myiasis moving northward from Central America and Mexico. Recent cases in animals have been identified less than 200 miles from the US border in Tamaulipas, Mexico. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a nationwide Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory in January to increase awareness of the New World Screwworm (NWS) outbreak and to summarize CDC recommendations: [New World Screwworm: Outbreak Moves into Northern Mexico | HAN | CDC](#). As of February 26, 2026, local NWS transmission has not been identified in the United States. However, travel-associated human cases occurred in the US and Canada in 2025 and the risk for imported cases in humans and animals continues.

### Recommendations for Clinicians & Veterinarians:

NWS myiasis occurs when NWS flies lay eggs in wounds or in body cavities with mucous membranes, such as the nose, ears, eyes, or mouth. The eggs develop into parasitic larvae (maggots) that feed on and burrow into living flesh, in contrast with most forms of myiasis where the maggots consume only dead tissue. Although they primarily affect livestock, the flies also lay eggs on people and other warm-blooded animals, including domestic pets and wildlife. As of February 24, 2026, NWS infestations have been confirmed in over 156,000 animals and 1,350 humans across Central America and Mexico. Seven human deaths have been reported. Dogs are the second most-commonly affected species in Mexico, following cattle.

It is critical to remove and properly dispose of all larvae and eggs that are not submitted for diagnosis to avoid introducing them into the environment. Healthcare providers and veterinarians are encouraged to review the comprehensive information and resources provided in CDC's HAN: [New World Screwworm: Outbreak Moves into Northern Mexico | HAN | CDC](#).

### New Mexico Guidance:

All suspect **human** cases must be reported immediately to the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) 24/7/365 at 1-833-SWNURSE (1-833-796-8773). Staff will provide detailed guidance regarding specimen submission and diagnosis.

All suspect **animal** cases must be reported immediately to the New Mexico Livestock Board at (505) 841-6161. After hours, call the AgroGuard Hotline at (1-800-525-2782). Additional information, including NMDA's reporting form, can be found here: [What is New World Screwworm?](#)

**New Mexico Health Alert Network**: To register for the NM Health Alert Network, please visit the following site <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please fill out the registration form completely and click Submit at the bottom of the page, to begin receiving Important health alerts, advisories, and updates.

**Please Note** that our system also utilizes text messaging to notify members of important health information. Due to FCC Regulation changes that are designed to decrease the amount of unwanted spam text messages sent each year to citizens, please save, this phone number **(855) 596-1810** as the **“New Mexico Health Alert Network”** default phone number for your account used for text messages on the mobile device(s) you register with us.