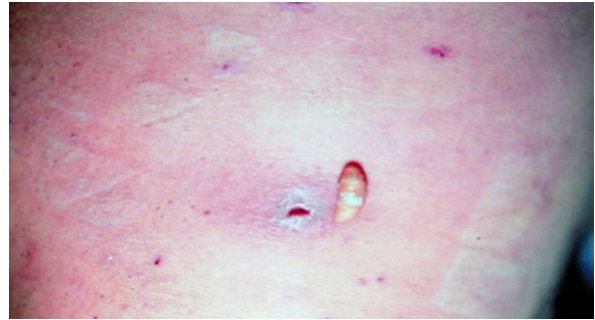


NEW WORLD SCREWORM (NWS)

Clinical Alert for Healthcare Providers



C. hominivorax larva, Photo from CDC



NWS wound presentation, Photo from Costa Rica Ministry of Health

NWS myiasis is caused by *Cochliomyia hominivorax* fly larvae, which feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Previously eradicated from much of North America, NWS is currently experiencing an active outbreak in Mexico and Central America. **As of June 2026, infested animals have been documented in Texas and New Mexico.** Travel-associated cases may appear anywhere.

RISK FACTORS	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spent time in or near an area where NWS is known to be present.Proximity to livestock.Chronic wounds, diabetes, or impaired wound healing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visible larvae or eggs in wounds or body orifices.Destruction of healthy tissue in or around wounds.Sensation of movement and/or foul odor from a wound.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clinical presentation, risk factors.Laboratory confirmation via larval identification.Re-examine wound at 24–48 hours to confirm no residual larvae.

IF YOU SUSPECT NWS: IMMEDIATE MANAGEMENT STEPS

1	Remove, kill, and save larvae and eggs, refer patient for surgical management if needed	Wound care and removal of larvae is primary treatment – infections can progress rapidly. Place larvae in 70% ethanol or isopropanol.
2	Report case to NMDOH	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).
3	Submit specimens for identification according to NMDOH instructions	NMDOH staff will provide detailed guidance regarding specimen submission and diagnosis.



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
<https://ScrewwormNM.org>
1-833-SWNURSE 1-833-796-8773

