

New World Screwworm (NWS) For Healthcare Providers

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide NWS general recommendations to healthcare providers.

1. Report all suspected NWS human cases to your local health department (LHD) immediately. If unable to reach the LHD, notify the West Virginia Department of Health (WV DH) Epi on-call at (304) 558-5358.
2. Work with the health department to confirm the diagnosis by:
 - Consulting with the health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - Collect and submit at least 10 larvae for [specimen identification by CDC](#).
 - If multiple stages include representatives from each stage.
 - Place larvae in a leakproof vial with enough alcohol to cover larvae.
 - Store and transport larvae in 70% alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl). Alternative liquids include 5-10% formalin.
 - Clinicians may send samples to CDC directly. If a clinician is unable to send samples to CDC, coordinate shipment with the health department.
3. Immediately remove and kill ALL remaining larvae from patients with NWS. **Failure to kill and dispose of all larvae or eggs properly could result in the new introduction and spread of NWS in the environment.**
 - Store remaining eggs and larvae in separate leakproof containers.
 - Submerge eggs and larvae in 70% alcohol or 5-10% formalin.
 - Place the container into a zip-top plastic bag and seal it.
 - Dispose of sealed bag as biohazardous waste.
4. Clinical Guidance:
 - Treatment of NWS in humans is removal of all eggs and larvae through surgical extraction.
 - There is no specific medication for treatment of NWS in humans.
 - Re-examine treated lesions after 24-28 hours to confirm no live larvae remain.
 - Remove and dispose of any remaining larvae as described above.
 - Consultations:
 - To learn more about NWS, visit CDC's [Clinical Overview of New World Screwworm](#).
 - During business hours, contact CDC's Parasitic Diseases Hotline at (404) 718-4745, parasites@cdc.gov or WV DH at (304) 558-5358.
 - After business hours, contact CDC's Emergency Operations Center (770) 488-7100 or WV DH at (304) 558-5358.
5. For non-clinical questions, contact your LHD or newworldscrewworm@cdc.gov.

For additional information, please visit:

[WV OEPS New World Screwworm](#)