

## **New Mexico Index Case of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus**

New Mexico is now the third state in the US to have a confirmed case of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) this year. On May 22, 2026, the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) reported positive test results on samples submitted from one horse in Sandoval County. A second horse with similar symptoms has been reported on another premises in the same county. Presenting clinical signs in the affected horses were lip and tongue lesions. Both premises are under quarantine and will remain so until at least 14 days from the onset of lesions in the last affected animal on each premises.

Fifteen positive cases of VSV were previously diagnosed in multiple counties in Arizona since October 2025, and one case was recently diagnosed in Montezuma County in Colorado on May 7, 2026. Please see the [USDA APHIS Veterinary Services VSV website](#) to read the current situation report for all confirmed cases in the US.

### **Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Background**

Vesicular Stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. The transmission of VSV is not completely understood, but it includes insect vectors such as black flies, sand flies, and biting midges. The incubation period ranges from 2-8 days. Clinical signs include vesicles, erosions, and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, lips, tongue, ears, teats, sheath, or coronary bands. Often excessive salivation is the first sign of disease, along with a reluctance to eat or drink. Lameness associated with coronary band lesions or weight loss related to painful oral lesions and reluctance to eat may follow.

Some species of wildlife (e.g., deer and elk) may be susceptible to VSV. If you encounter a sick or deceased wild animal or have other wildlife-related questions, please contact the New Mexico Department of Wildlife at 505-476-8000.

Humans may become infected when handling affected animals or contaminated fomites, but this is a rare event. To avoid human exposure, individuals should use protective clothing and gloves when handling affected animals and their equipment. Advise any symptomatic animal owners of affected premises to seek care and notify their healthcare provider of exposure to VSV. There are no routine tests or specific treatment for VSV in humans. VSV infection in humans is not reportable to public health unless infection in animals is also suspected and has not been reported to the Office of the State Veterinarian.

## **What Veterinarians Need to Know**

Report any cases that have clinical signs suggestive of VSV as soon as possible to the NMLB Office of the State Veterinarian at 505-841-6161. Reporting is the best way to reduce the negative implications to other owners.

**NON-EQUINE CASES:** *All suspected VSV cases in non-equine species (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camelids) **must be investigated by state or federal animal health officials.***

Additional information will be sent directly to licensed veterinarians through the email list from the NMLB. Veterinarians may also contact the NMLB Office of the State Veterinarian with questions.

## **Health Certificates (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or CVI)**

New Mexico veterinarians and livestock owners should contact the state of destination when moving livestock interstate to ensure that all import requirements are met. States may impose certain restrictions for horses and livestock coming from VSV-affected states

**IMPORTANT:** Canada restricts movement coming from VSV-affected states. Equine species and other livestock are not permitted to move from a VSV-affected state directly to Canada.

## **Resources:**

**[USDA APHIS Vesicular Stomatitis Factsheet](#)**