



Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program

PO Box 1450 ♦ Window Rock ♦ Arizona ♦ 86515 ♦ 505-371-5214

Equine Health Advisory

June 16, 2020

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Update- New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and Kansas

Navajo Nation Veterinary Management is informing the people, entities and invested parties of the Navajo Nation of the Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Kansas. **VS in Arizona has spread up to at least St. John at this time, yet would we recommend be on the look out and report any suspicious lesions. Please be aware of preventive measures for your Equids. Biweekly updates will be reported if no cases on Navajo Nation are seen.**

Date	Event
April 13, 2020	VSV index case for the U.S. confirmed at NVSL – Dona Ana County, New Mexico. New affected county confirmed – Sierra County, New Mexico
April 20, 2020	New affected county confirmed – Eddy County, New Mexico
April 22, 2020	VSV index case for Arizona confirmed – Cochise County, Arizona
April 23, 2020	VSV index case for Texas confirmed – Starr County, Texas
April 27, 2020	New affected county confirmed – Pinal County, Arizona
April 29, 2020	New affected county confirmed – El Paso County, Texas
May 4, 2020	New affected county confirmed – Grant County, New Mexico
May 6, 2020	New affected counties confirmed – Gila County, Arizona; Zapata County, Texas
May 7, 2020	New affected counties confirmed – Pima, County, Arizona; Bernalillo and De Baca Counties, New Mexico
May 19, 2020	New affected county confirmed – McMullen County, Texas
May 20, 2020	New affected county confirmed – Hudspeth County, Texas
May 21, 2020	New affected counties confirmed – Santa Cruz County, Arizona; Kerr County, Texas
May 22, 2020	New affected county confirmed – Maricopa County, Arizona
May 29, 2020	New affected county confirmed – Apache County, Arizona
June 16, 2020	VSV index case for Kansas confirmed – Butler County, Kansas

Which animals are affected and what are the clinical signs?

In addition to horses, VSV can affect mules, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, pigs, and camelids.

The clinical signs of Vesicular Stomatitis are excessive salivation & drooling. This is due to fluid filled blisters on the lips, tongue and the roof of the mouth. There can also be blisters in the nasal passages,

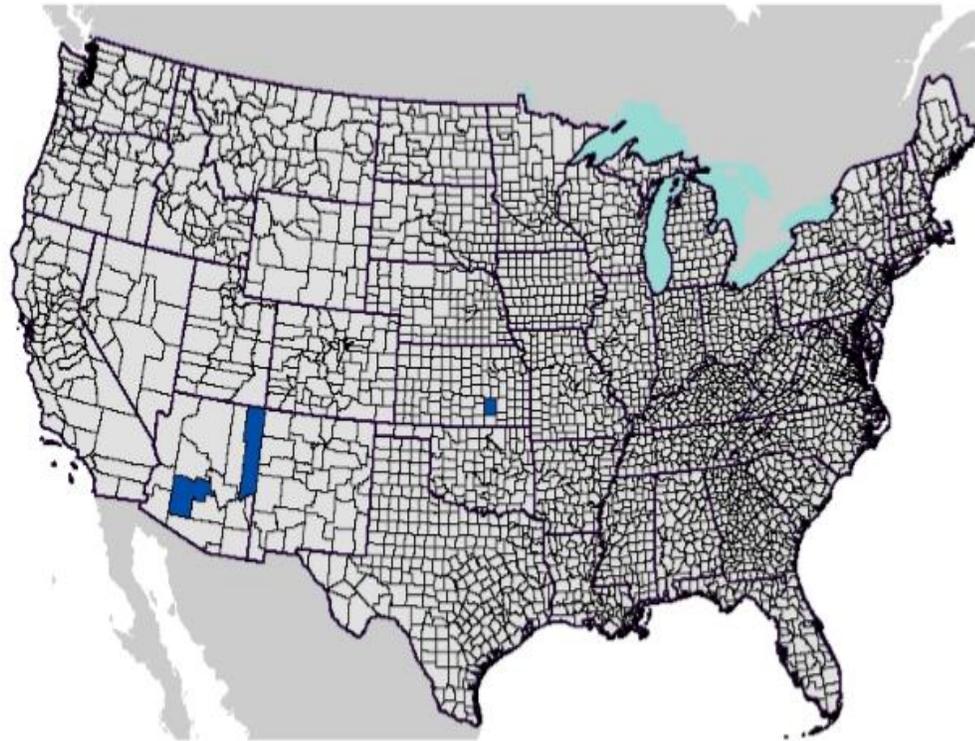


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around the feet, udder/teats and the prepuce which rupture and leaving painful ulcers. These ulcers often make the animals reluctant to eat and drink or cause lameness and pain when walking. Clinical signs include vesicles, erosions, and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, teats, and coronary bands. Often excessive salivation is the first sign of disease, along with a reluctance to eat or drink. Lameness and weight loss may follow. Generally animals will recover after 2-3 weeks. Since the clinical signs of VSV are *indistinguishable* from Foot and Mouth Disease, an investigation is always warranted by a State or Federal Official.

Map 1 (Current). Counties with Current VSV-Quarantined Premises (shaded in blue)



How is Vesicular Stomatitis Spread?

Biting insects (sandflies, blackflies, midges/gnats) are thought to be the primary source of disease introduction into populations of domestic livestock so fly control through cleanliness & manure management, limiting turnout of animals when fly activity is greatest and application of insecticides to facilities and fly repellants to animals may all be useful strategies for decreasing fly-livestock



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contact. VSV is a highly infectious disease so once an animal becomes infected with VSV, transmission is no longer dependent on biting flies but can occur through direct contact with nasal secretions and saliva / vesicular fluid either from animal to animal or via contamination of fomites such as common feeders, water buckets, balling guns, tack, halters, bridles and bits. It can also be carried by humans to other horses if working with an infected horse first.

To help control the disease please NOTE the following:

- **Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.**
- **Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from other animals especially at events.**
- **No Vaccine available for livestock and equine so prevention is the best medicine.**

Can Vesicular Stomatitis be spread to people?

In very rare cases, Vesicular Stomatitis can be spread to humans through open lesions on the animals coming in direct contact with open cuts, wounds on people. VS in humans is like flu-like symptoms (fever, headaches, lethargy) that usually lasts 3 to 5 days. There has been no known transmission of Vesicular Stomatitis from vectors, ie biting flies, midges, gnats, sandflies.

With this recent confirmation of VSV in our states and surrounding areas we all need to please be on the lookout for lesions affecting animals and report these immediately to the Navajo Nation Veterinary Management at 505-371-5214.

The Navajo Nation Veterinary Management recommends limit traveling especially during these times in addition if you do travel, we recommend a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) issued within 2-5 days prior to an event, this can be beneficial in reducing risks.

Any other questions feel free to contact :

Tse Bonito: 505-371-5214; Chinle 382-674-2069; Shiprock 505-368-1007.