CARCASS DISPOSAL

- Deer harvested from an area infected with CWD never should be disposed of on the landscape in non-CWD areas.

Off-site disposal (preferred)

- Take directly to a landfill or use your regular trash pickup that will be taken to the landfill.
- At no time should the head, spine or other restricted parts of a deer be moved or disposed of outside of a CWD-affected area.

On-site disposal

- If it is necessary to bury a carcass, do so as close to the kill site as possible and deep enough to prevent scavengers from digging it up.
- Burying carcass parts does not prevent future infections but does minimize the risk of moving CWD to areas that have not been infected.

HUNTING OUT OF MICHIGAN?

- If you harvest a deer, elk or moose in any other state or province, you may bring only the following parts into Michigan:
  - Hides.
  - Deboned meat.
  - Quarters or other parts of the cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached.
  - Finished taxidermy products.
  - Cleaned teeth.
  - Antlers attached to a skullcap cleaned of brain and muscle tissue.
- If you are notified by another state or province that a deer, elk, or moose you brought into Michigan has CWD, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030 within two business days and provide details.

IMPACTS OF CWD

- To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans. As a precaution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that CWD-positive animals not be consumed as food by either humans or domesticated animals.
- CWD is a fatal disease in deer, elk and moose with no known treatment or recovery.
- CWD has reduced the deer population locally in other states over the years and has depressed the age structure of deer to mainly young animals.
- A healthy deer herd is important for hunting traditions.
- Michigan has about 600,000 deer hunters who harvest about 375,000 deer annually.
- Hunting generates more than $2.3 billion to Michigan's economy annually.
- Management efforts are designed to limit the number of infected deer.
- The CWD problem is not just in Michigan. As of April 2021, 26 other states have CWD in their captive or free-ranging deer populations.

SIGNS OF CWD IN DEER

- Loss of body condition or emaciation (thin or weak).
- Change in behavior, such as loss of fear of humans.
- Loss of bodily control or movements.
- Excessive drooling and salivating.
- A deer may have CWD but not show symptoms until after two years of age.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SICK DEER?

- Accurately document the location of the animal, including crossroads, addresses or prominent landmarks.
- Call the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline at 1-800-292-7800 or your nearest DNR wildlife office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Disease control permits are available for specific landowners to harvest deer within certain CWD areas. Visit Michigan.gov/CWD to learn more.
- Hunters who harvest a deer that tests positive for CWD may receive a new hunting license from the DNR.

CWD
IN MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

What can you do?

WE NEED YOU!

- Keep hunting.
- Get your deer checked. Find locations at Michigan.gov/DeerCheck.
- Handle and dispose of your carcass in a responsible manner.
- If you hunt out of state, only bring back allowed deer, elk or moose parts.
- Stay up to date with the latest regulations, especially if hunting in or near CWD areas, at Michigan.gov/CWD.

WHAT IS CWD?

- Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal central nervous system disease found in cervids, such as deer, moose and elk.
- CWD is caused by a protein, called a prion, that misfolds and can infect other deer. These prions may remain infectious in the environment for years.
- It affects the central nervous system of infected animals, resulting in brain lesions and neurological symptoms.
- It is transmitted through direct animal to animal contact or by contact with saliva, urine, feces, blood, carcass parts of an infected animal, or infected soil. Prions are extremely resistant in the environment and can stay infectious for years.
- CWD is a fatal disease; once an animal is infected, there is no recovery or cure.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MICHIGAN.GOV/CWD

PROPER CARCASS HANDLING

CWD is not known to infect humans; however, safe handling during processing is recommended.

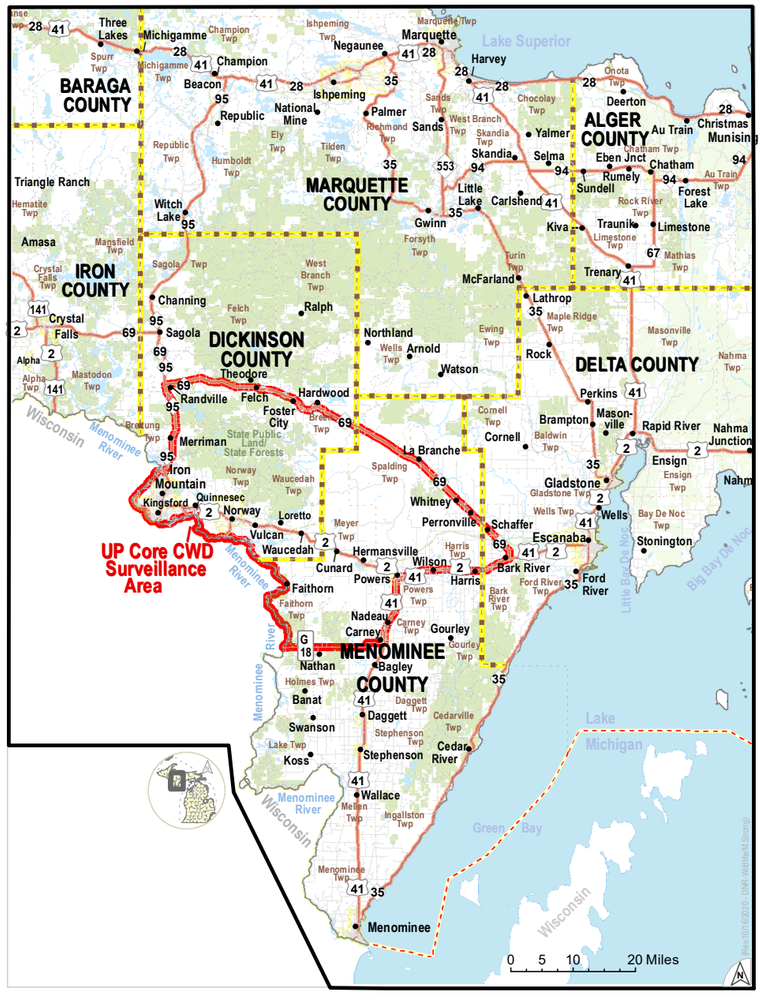
PRECAUTIONS WHEN FIELD DRESSING AND PROCESSING A DEER

- Cover all open wounds on yourself.
- Wear rubber gloves.
- Try to minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Bone out the meat from your deer. Avoid cutting through the brain or spinal column during processing.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water after handling any parts of the carcass.
- Wash knives, saws and cutting table surfaces immediately after processing.
- Dispose of leftover carcass parts through your garbage service, an appropriate landfill, incineration or deep burial at the harvest location.
- Avoid consuming or cooking the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals.
- Request that your deer be processed individually, without meat from other deer being included.

DEER CHECK

- Within CWD surveillance areas, help us learn about the distribution of the disease and have your deer head tested. More information can be found at Michigan.gov/DeerCheck.
- Check locations include DNR deer check stations or DNR drop boxes.
- If CWD is found in a submitted deer, the hunter will be notified by phone. If CWD is not found, test results will be posted online at Michigan.gov/DNRLab in one month.

UPPER PENINSULA CWD SURVEILLANCE AREAS



HELP FIGHT CWD

The DNR is asking hunters in the identified surveillance areas to submit their deer heads for testing. This information will help the DNR determine the extent of the disease in the U.P. Deer check locations can be found online at Michigan.gov/DeerCheck. While online, click on the map to determine location information and type of check station offered. There are some 24-hour drop boxes available in the surveillance areas, and those can be found on the online map. Depending on the time of the year, test results may take one month.

FAQ

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF CWD IN THE UPPER PENINSULA?

In 2018, a 4-year-old doe tested positive for CWD. The deer was killed in Dickinson County's Waucedah Township on a deer-damage shooting permit on an agricultural farm, about 4 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin border. This doe marks the first confirmation of CWD in the Upper Peninsula. No additional positives have been found as of April 2021. For current information, visit Michigan.gov/CWD.

WHERE ELSE HAS CWD BEEN FOUND IN MICHIGAN?

Since May 2015, when the first free-ranging CWD deer was found, CWD has been confirmed in free-ranging deer from Clinton, Dickinson, Eaton, Gratiot, Ionia, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, and Montcalm counties. To learn the latest number of CWD-positive deer within the state and the number of deer tested, visit Michigan.gov/CWD.

WHAT IS A SURVEILLANCE AREA?

Surveillance areas are locations where the DNR wants to test a minimum number of deer heads to better understand the extent of the disease in the area. The UP core CWD surveillance area consists of portions of Dickinson, Delta, and Menominee County.

HOW MANY DEER HEADS DOES THE DNR NEED?

The sampling goal for the UP core CWD surveillance area is 1,927 deer heads.

IS A MANDATORY DEER CHECK BEING ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA?

Not at this time. CWD testing will be available on a limited basis for areas with active surveillance goals. Hunters should check Michigan.gov/Deer for CWD testing information.

IS IT SAFE TO EAT MEAT FROM CWD POSITIVE DEER? HOW CAN WE BE SURE THERE IS NO CROSS CONTAMINATION IN MEAT PROCESSING?

Health officials recommend that you not eat the meat from known CWD-infected animals. Hunters located in CWD areas are advised to debone their meat and not to consume parts, such as the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals. Request that your deer is processed individually, without meat from other deer being included.

IS THE DNR BANNING DEER BAITING AND FEEDING IN THIS AREA?

Baiting and feeding of deer is banned in the Core CWD Surveillance Area. Exception: Hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements may use bait in areas where baiting and feeding is banned during the Liberty and Independence Hunts only. The remainder of the Upper Peninsula remains open to deer baiting and feeding.

WHAT TYPE OF DEER CAN I HARVEST IN THE CORE CWD SURVEILLANCE AREA?

Hunters may harvest an antlerless deer during the archery season with a deer or deer combination license. During all firearm deer seasons, hunters can use a single deer license or combination license to harvest a buck with at least one three-inch antler.

CAN I USE A CROSSBOW DURING THE LATE ARCHERY SEASON IN THE CORE CWD SURVEILLANCE AREA?

Crossbows are allowed during the late archery season in the Core CWD Surveillance Area.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Keep hunting and get your deer checked. Responsibly transport, process and dispose of your deer carcass. Be aware of and follow safe ways to bring deer into Michigan from out of state. Pass these tips on to other hunters. Visit Michigan.gov/CWD to learn more.