



Chronic Wasting Disease

Know the Facts!



What is it?

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a central nervous system disease found in cervids: deer, elk, and moose.
- It attacks the brain of infected animals creating small lesions in the brain that result in death.
- It is always fatal.
- It is transmitted through direct animal to animal contact or by contact with saliva, urine, feces, blood, and carcass parts of an infected animal or infected soil.

Signs of CWD in Deer

- Loss of body condition or emaciation.
- Change in behavior such as loss of fear of humans.
- Loss of bodily control or movements.
- Excessive drooling and salivating.

What are the impacts?

- CWD can spread through the deer herd.
- All deer infected with CWD die from the disease.
- Established CWD could significantly reduce the number of deer in Michigan and/or significantly depress older age classes, especially mature older-aged bucks.
- A healthy deer herd is important for hunting traditions. Michigan has more than 650,000 deer hunters who have harvested an average of 430,000 deer annually during the past decade.
- Hunting generates more than \$2.3 billion annually to Michigan's economy. A healthy deer herd is critical to the state's economy.
- Without appropriate management within the current CWD Management Zone, the disease may spread to other areas of the state.
- There is no treatment for CWD.

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What should You know?

- No known health risks to humans.
- CWD has been detected in free-ranging deer in south central Michigan.
- DNR and MDARD are following the steps outlined in the Michigan Surveillance and Response Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease in free-ranging deer and privately owned cervid facilities.
- The CWD Management Zone includes Ingham, Clinton, Shiawassee, Eaton, and Ionia.
- A Core CWD Area (17 townships) has been established consisting of Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Delhi, Alaedon, and Wheatfield townships in Ingham County; Westphalia, Riley, Olive, Victor, Eagle, Watertown, DeWitt, and Bath townships in Clinton County; Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County; and, Oneida and Delta townships in Eaton County.
- Road-kills found in the Core CWD Area may be possessed and kept with a Department issued salvage tag. The head must be submitted to a Department biologist, biologist appointee, or check station to acquire a salvage permit from a Law Enforcement Officer or Department employee.
- Possession of any live free-ranging deer is illegal. Taking an unhealthy deer from the environment and attempting to rehabilitate them has the potential to increase the spread of CWD by bringing infected deer into contact with other deer in rehabilitation centers, and contaminating those facilities with CWD. Rehabilitation of deer obtained in the CWD Management Zone or Core CWD Area is prohibited.
- If you see a deer that shows CWD symptoms, you should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately call Report All Poaching (RAP) (1-800-292-7800). Do not attempt to disturb, kill, or remove the animal.

What if I hunt in the area?

- Mandatory checking of deer is required in the Core CWD Area during hunting seasons and restrictions will apply to the movement of carcasses and parts of deer taken in this area.
- A deer feeding and baiting ban is in place for the Core CWD Area and the larger five-county CWD Management Zone.

To learn more visit mi.gov/cwd

