



# Chronic Wasting Disease

## Keep the U.P. CWD FREE!



### 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.
- No known health risks to humans.
- 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 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 population.
- 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 population 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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## Can I bring my deer... to the U.P. from downstate?

- Deer taken from Deer Management Unit 333 (CWD Core Area) must be brought to a DNR deer check station within the Core Area. Once the entire deer carcass has been submitted for testing, the carcass may be transported anywhere in the state.

## into the U.P. from another state or Canada?

- Harvested free-ranging deer, elk, or moose from Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta, or Saskatchewan have importation restrictions.
- As these states and provinces have detected CWD in free-ranging animals, only the following parts of a deer, elk, or moose carcasses may be brought into Michigan: deboned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth or a finished taxidermy mount.
- If you are notified by another state or province that a deer, elk, or moose you brought into Michigan tested positive for CWD, you must contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab within two business days (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 517-336-5030 and provide details.
- In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture may have regulations on importation from Canada; contact them at 301-851-3300.

## Will CWD reach the U.P.?

- It is unknown if CWD will reach the U.P.
- CWD has been detected in free-ranging deer in south central Michigan, and has also been found in Wisconsin 75 miles from Menominee and 115 miles from Ironwood.

To learn more visit [mi.gov/cwd](http://mi.gov/cwd)

