

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- **Keep hunting.** Hunters are essential for deer herd management and help biologists stay informed of herd health. Participate in surveillance efforts in your area during hunting seasons.
- **Report sick deer** to your local conservation officer or area wildlife office. Check the hunting regulations booklet or the DNR website for contact information.
- **Be aware of feeding and attractant bans** in your county (includes salt and mineral licks).
- **Abide by carcass movement restrictions.** Whole carcasses of deer, elk, moose, reindeer and caribou are prohibited from entering Minnesota from anywhere. Within the state, whole carcasses must stay within disease management or control zones until a “not detected” test result is received.



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CWD IN DEER?

Throughout most of the infection, the animal appears healthy. Clinical signs may not appear for several years after initial exposure and may include:

- Weight loss or emaciation
- Excessive drooling and salivation
- Confusion or loss of fear of humans
- Tremors, staggering or loss of body control
- Drooping head or ears

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

- **Minnesota DNR:** mndnr.gov/cwd
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** cdc.gov/prions/cwd
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/chronic-wasting-disease
- **CWD Alliance:** cwd-info.org

CONTACT US

Call us at 888-MINNDNR or 651-296-6157.

- **License, titling, registration:** M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **General information:** M-F, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Turn In Poachers 24-hour hotline: 800-652-9093

 facebook.com/mnwildlife  twitter.com/mn_wildlife

 DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES


FISH AND WILDLIFE

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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

What hunters need to know



mndnr.gov/cwd

 DEPARTMENT OF
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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

- CWD is a central nervous system disease found in cervids (deer, elk, moose, reindeer and caribou).
- It is caused by prions (abnormal proteins) that are highly resistant to disinfectants, heat or freezing; cooking the meat will not destroy this disease.
- It is spread among animals through contact with prions from an infected individual or infected soil. Prions are shed through saliva, urine, blood, feces, antler velvet and carcass parts of an infected animal.
- It affects the brain of the infected animal and is always fatal. There is no vaccine or treatment for CWD.
- It is a slow-moving disease with an incubation period of 1 ½ to 3 years, which means animals infected with CWD may not show symptoms.



DID YOU KNOW?

Restrictions on carcass movements, limitations on deer feeding and surveillance in areas of concern can help keep Minnesota's deer herd healthy.



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CWD IN MINNESOTA?

As of July 1, 2020:

- The disease remains relatively rare in our state.
- The DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in Minnesota since 2002.
- There have been 88 CWD-positive wild deer, primarily in southeastern Minnesota.
- Since 2002, 10 Minnesota deer farms have detected CWD within their fences.

HOW DO I GET MY TEST RESULTS?



Visit mndnr.gov/cwdcheck and use your nine-digit MNDNR number to look up your individual results.



No internet access?

Call 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367) from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays or 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The time it takes to receive test results will vary depending on the number of samples collected.

Process your deer as you normally would. Keep processed deer separate and identifiable until test results are received.

If CWD is found in a submitted deer, the hunter will be notified immediately by a DNR official by phone.

HOW DO I GET A TROPHY DEER TESTED?

Option A: Find a participating taxidermist

After registering your deer, bring it to an approved taxidermist who will submit the lymph nodes for you. See a list of participating taxidermists in your area at mndnr.gov/cwd.

Option B: Provide a caped-out head for sampling

You can bring your deer to a taxidermist or cape the deer yourself (see the tip below). After the deer is caped, provide a caped-out head at one of the self-service sampling stations.



TIP: HOW-TO VIDEOS

Watch videos to learn how to collect your own lymph node samples, quarter a deer before transporting or cape a trophy deer to legally transport the carcass at mndnr.gov/cwd/videos.html.



IS VENISON SAFE TO EAT?

There is currently no evidence that humans can get CWD; however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you do not eat meat from a known positive animal. For more information, please visit cdc.gov/prions/cwd.

HOW TO PROPERLY HANDLE YOUR HARVESTED DEER

Follow these recommendations to help limit the spread of CWD:

- Wear rubber gloves while field dressing or butchering your deer.
- Bone out meat from your animal.
- Minimize handling of brain and spinal tissue.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling the carcass.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes.
- Consider having your deer processed and wrapped individually.
- To prevent wanton waste, process and store your deer as you normally would.

It is the hunter's choice to consume venison prior to receiving test results.