



Learn more about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
mndnr.gov/cwd

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/prions/cwd

U.S. Geological Survey
nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/chronicwasting_disease

CWD Alliance
cwd-info.org



FISH AND WILDLIFE

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St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-MINNDNR or 651-296-6157
mndnr.gov

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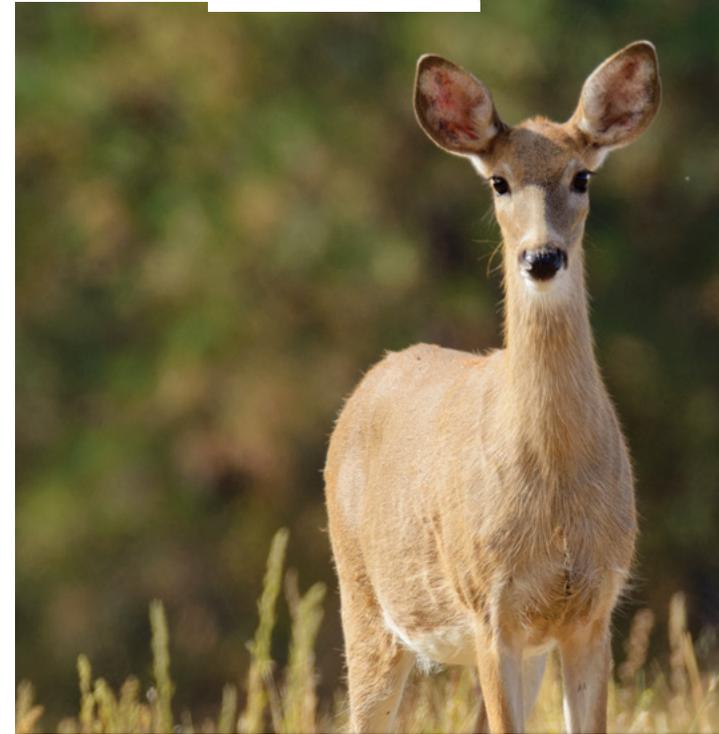
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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN MINNESOTA

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.
HOW YOU CAN HELP.



What can I do to help?

The DNR routinely conducts surveillance when there is a risk of the disease spreading by known positive deer in an area – in wild or farmed deer. We need your help to succeed. So, please:

- Participate in surveillance efforts during hunting seasons when they occur in your area.
- Comply with bans on recreational deer feeding and use of attractants (this includes salt and mineral licks) where they exist.
- Report sick deer to your local conservation officer or area wildlife office.
- Be aware of carcass-import restrictions. Whole carcasses of deer, elk, moose, or caribou cannot be brought into Minnesota.
- Learn more about CWD in the Minnesota hunting regulations handbook or online at mndnr.gov/cwd



mndnr.gov/cwd

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CWD AND MINNESOTA

In Minnesota, chronic wasting disease (CWD) was first discovered on an elk farm in 2002 and the first wild deer was discovered in 2010.

CWD is a challenge to manage because:

- This always fatal neurologic disease develops slowly. By the time a deer looks sick – over many months to several years – it may have infected others.
- Prions, the abnormal proteins that cause the disease, are highly resistant to disinfectants, heat, or freezing - cooking will not kill this disease.
- There is currently no vaccine or treatment for this disease.
- Healthy deer can get CWD through direct contact with an infected deer's saliva, urine, blood, feces, antler velvet or carcass. Even soil can become contaminated and be a source of infection.

What to know before you hunt

- Review new information in the hunting regulations handbook to determine if CWD surveillance is occurring where you hunt. If you harvest a deer during mandatory sampling efforts, register your deer then bring it to a sampling station.
- CWD test results will be posted on-line. If your deer tests positive you will be notified immediately by phone.
- If you are hunting deer, elk, moose, or caribou out-of-state, be aware that these whole carcasses are prohibited from entering Minnesota. Details about carcass-import restrictions can be found in the regulations handbook.
- Your compliance with CWD surveillance efforts is critical. Keeping our deer herd healthy guarantees this valuable resource for future generations.



Learn more about CWD prevention in Minnesota and what you need to do:

mndnr.gov/cwd

Long-term impacts for Minnesota

Once established on the landscape, CWD has the potential to significantly reduce deer numbers. This could negatively impact hunting, wildlife watching and those who benefit economically from a healthy deer population.

Minnesota deer hunting generates nearly \$500 million of economic activity each year. It is in Minnesota's best interest to keep deer healthy for future generations.

Is venison safe to eat?

While there is no evidence that humans can contract CWD, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends testing your deer for CWD. CDC recommends not eating meat from a known positive animal.

For more information, please visit the CDC website: cdc.gov/prions/cwd

Be vigilant for signs of sickness

Though diseased deer can appear healthy, the clinical signs of a CWD-positive deer include:

- Weight loss; emaciation
- Excessive drooling and salivation
- Loss of fear of humans; confusion
- Loss of body control, tremors, or staggering
- Drooping head or ears

Report sick deer to your local conservation officer or DNR Area Wildlife Office.