



## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

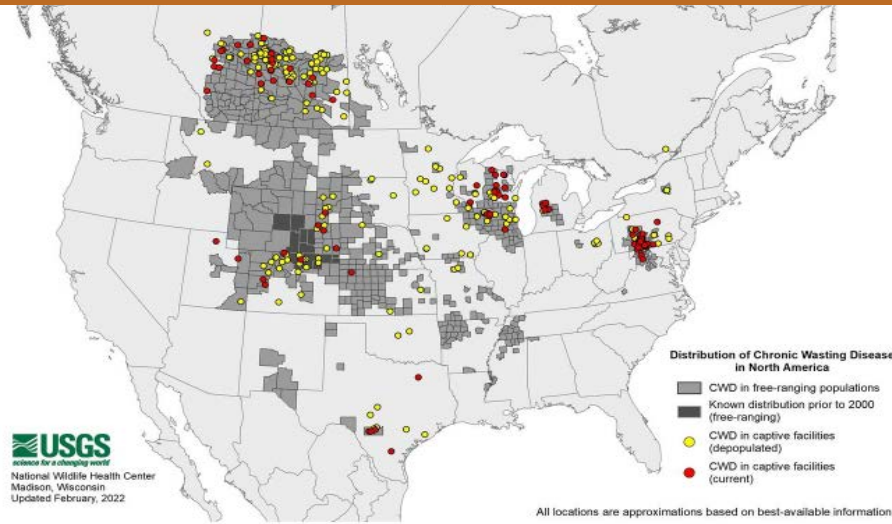
Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a member of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) family of diseases that includes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in cattle; Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans; and Scrapie in sheep and goats. It affects members of the cervid (deer) family and was first recognized in Colorado mule deer in 1967. CWD is an incurable, untreatable, always fatal brain disease caused by a misshapen protein known as a prion.

## How is it spread?

CWD is transmitted both directly through animal-to-animal contact and indirectly through food and soil contaminated with bodily excretions including feces, urine and saliva. Contaminated carcasses or high-risk carcass parts may also spread the disease indirectly through environmental contamination, which lasts for years, if not decades.

## How can I tell if an animal has CWD?

Animals infected with CWD may not show signs of infection for 12 or more months. Late-stage symptoms of CWD-infected animals include an extreme loss of body condition; excessive drinking, urination, salivation and drooling; and behavioral and neurologic changes such as repetitive walking patterns, droopy ears, a wide-based stance, and listlessness. Some animals lose their fear of humans and predators. There is no known cure. It is important to note that these symptoms are characteristic of many diseases other than CWD. Confirming an animal is infected with CWD requires laboratory testing of the brain or lymph nodes of the head.



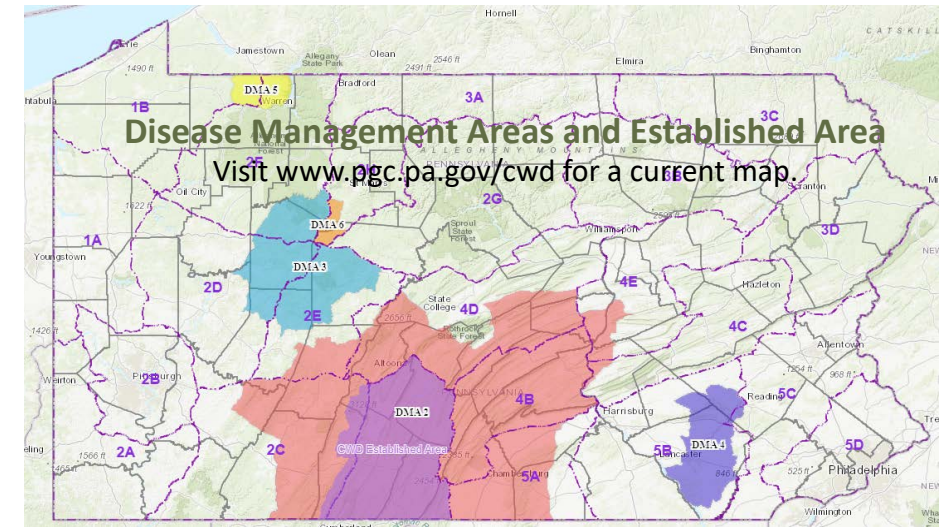
## Where has CWD been found?

Pennsylvania detected its first case of CWD in 2012 in Adams County. Currently, there are five active Disease Management Areas (DMAs). DMA 2 covers more than 7,740 square miles, and includes all or parts of Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Northumberland, Snyder, Somerset, Union and Westmoreland counties. DMA 3 covers more than 1,380 square miles in all or parts of Armstrong, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson and Indiana counties. DMA 4 covers more than 740 square miles in all or parts of Berks, Lebanon and Lancaster counties. DMA 5 covers more than 210 square miles in Warren County. DMA 6 covers more than 90 square miles in parts of Elk, Clearfield, and Jefferson counties.

## What if I'm hunting in an area where CWD is known to exist?

Follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Be familiar with the regulations and guidelines for the transportation of harvested game where you are hunting as well as the Pennsylvania Cervid Parts Importation Ban (see back panel).
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Minimize the handling of and cutting through brain and spinal tissues.
- Process the animal near the area where it was harvested so high-risk parts can be disposed of properly. It is illegal to import high-risk parts into Pennsylvania or out of Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and Established Areas (EAs) within Pennsylvania.
- Ask your butcher to process your meat individually, without meat from other animals; or process your own meat.
- Only bring low-risk parts back to Pennsylvania or out of a DMA or EA.
- Have your animal tested and do not consume animals that test positive for CWD.
- Do not consume parts of any animal testing positive for CWD or displaying outward signs of disease.



## What precautions should I take?

Hunters should wear gloves while field dressing. Thoroughly clean hands and processing tools with soap and hot water; spray all surfaces with 40% bleach (2 parts household bleach + 3 parts water) and allow to air dry. If you encounter a visibly sick deer while hunting and have the opportunity and license to harvest it, please do so. Then contact the Game Commission region office to surrender the deer for testing and receive a replace harvest tag.

## Where can I have my animal tested?

Hunters can submit their harvested deer to the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System for testing; for a fee. The Chronic Wasting Disease Submission Form for hunters can be found at [www.padls.org](http://www.padls.org).

Deer taken within DMAs and EAs can be submitted for free testing at locations listed on the "Where Can I Take My Deer?" map found at: [www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd](http://www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd).