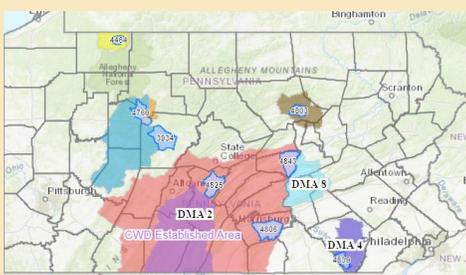


# Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in State Forests

## Where is CWD?



CWD Disease Management Areas with DMAP units

- Most free-range CWD-positive deer have been detected in southcentral Pennsylvania in DMA 2.
- DMA 2 includes Gallitzin, Forbes, Buchanan, Weiser, Rothrock, Tuscarora, Bald Eagle, and Michaux state forest districts.
- Due to new positive cases, DMA 3 has expanded for 2023-2024.
- The top three counties for CWD-positive deer detected are Bedford, Fulton and Blair.
- DMA 8 was added in 2023 after a CWD-positive road-killed deer was detected in Dauphin County.

## What is CWD?

Chronic Wasting Disease is a disease that affects deer and elk. It is passed via saliva, urine, and feces. The infectious particle is a prion (an abnormal protein). Research has shown that prions can persist in the environment for decades.

## CWD and Deer

- ✓ CWD is always fatal to infected deer and elk.
- ✓ Infected deer often do not show outward signs of disease until 18-24 months after infection.
- ✓ If CWD is present in an area, deer are more likely to contract it if they are using feeding sites.
- ✓ There is no vaccine to protect deer from CWD.
- ✓ The number of CWD-positive deer detected annually since 2012 has steadily risen in Pa.
- ✓ Clinical signs of CWD-positive deer are lethargy, emaciation, drooling, and lack of fear.



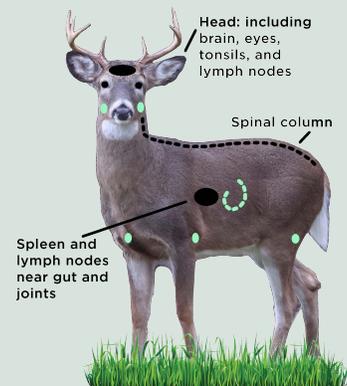
Buck suspected to have CWD (photo by PA Game Commission)

## DMAs and Post-Harvest Measures

- ✓ Areas where CWD is present called DMAs (Disease Management Areas) have special regulations.
- ✓ Feeding and using attractants in DMAs is prohibited.

- ✓ Hunters should always use rubber/nitrile gloves for field dressing deer.
- ✓ After boning out meat, all high-risk parts should be disposed of high-risk parts dumpster or placed for regular trash pickup within the DMA.

### HIGH-RISK PARTS



High-risk parts (image by PGC)

- ✓ Unless taken to a cooperator, moving high-risk parts out of a DMA or Established Area is prohibited.

## Free CWD Testing

- ✓ If you harvest a deer in a DMA, please deposit the deer's head, with your harvest tag affixed to the deer's ear, at one of the head collection containers (marked H or HD) on the [Interactive Map](#).
- ✓ You will be notified of the test results if deer is positive.
- ✓ Locations of cooperating processors, taxidermists, high-risk parts dumpsters, and deer head collection sites for 2023-2024 will be

available on the [Interactive Map](#).



*CWD testing sample  
(photo by PA Game Commission)*

## CWD Do's and Don'ts

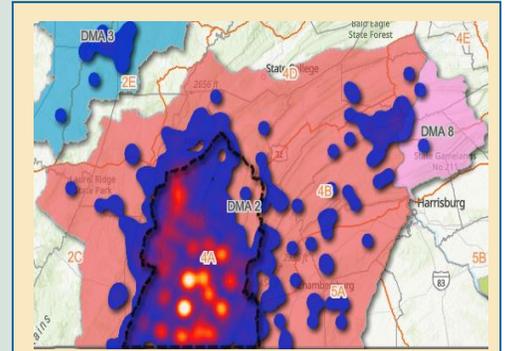
- ✓ Don't quit hunting in a DMA. Do continue to hunt and harvest deer there because harvesting deer slows the spread of CWD.
- ✓ Hunters with appropriate tags may harvest sick deer in hunting season. Contact the PGC to surrender your deer and get a replacement tag.
- ✓ If you harvest a deer in a DMA, have it tested for free.
- ✓ Don't eat the meat of a deer that tests positive for CWD. Do dispose of it properly.
- ✓ Don't forget to check the location of head and high-risk parts receptacles in DMAs before you hunt.
- ✓ Don't feed deer and report others who do.
- ✓ Stay updated on the status of CWD in PA every year.
- ✓ Don't ignore the threat of CWD. Learn all you can about it.
- ✓ Share your CWD knowledge with others.

## Brief History of CWD in PA

- ✓ CWD was first detected on a deer farm in Adams County in 2012, resulting in formation of DMA 1 (which is since dissolved after no further detections).
- ✓ DMA 2 was also established in 2012. CWD has been found in free-ranging and captive deer in the DMA.
- ✓ DMA 3 was established in 2014 after detection of CWD at a captive deer facility in Clearfield County.
- ✓ DMAs 4 and 5 were established in 2018 and 2021 due to detection of CWD at captive deer facilities in Lancaster and Warren counties, respectively.
- ✓ DMAs 6, 7, and 8 were established in 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively.

## CWD Resources

- ✓ Main CWD site: <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/cwd>
- ✓ DMA map: <https://bit.ly/PGC-CWDMap>
- ✓ CWD Results and Surveillance <https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/CWDResultsLookup>
- ✓ CWD Response Plan <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/Wildlife-RelatedDiseases/Pages/CWD-Response-Plan.aspx>
- ✓ CWD DMAP Area Lookup <https://www.pgcapps.pa.gov/Harvest/DMAP>



*2023 CWD Heat Map  
(image by PA Game Commission)*



*CWD clinical suspect, Juniata County  
(photo by PA Game Commission)*

## More Information

**For more information about CWD, please contact:**

PA Game Commission  
1-833-INFOCWD  
infocwd@pa.gov

or

Conservation Science and  
Ecological Resources (DCNR)  
717-787-3444