



## Are You Hunting in a DMA?

August 28, 2019

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTER

Dear Sir or Madam,

Due to new cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) being detected, both free-ranging and captive deer, disease management areas (DMA) 2 and 3 have expanded. DMA 2 now covers more than 6,715 square miles, an expansion of 2,101 square miles since last year. DMA 2 now includes all or parts of Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Somerset and Westmoreland counties. DMA 3 has expanded by 203 square miles and now covers more than 1,119 square miles, due to the discovery of CWD in a captive deer facility in Clearfield County. DMA 3 now includes all or parts of Armstrong, Clarion, Clearfield, Jefferson and Indiana counties.

Within DMAs, specific regulations apply to prevent the spread of CWD to other parts of the state. Within DMAs, it is unlawful to:

- Export high-risk cervid parts, including deer and elk
- Feed free-ranging cervids, including deer and elk
- Use or possess natural urine-based attractants in the field

High-risk carcass parts include: the head (including brain, tonsils, eyes, and lymph nodes); spinal cord/backbone (vertebra); spleen; skull plate with attached antlers, if visible brain or spinal cord material is present; cape, if visible brain or spinal cord material is present; upper canine teeth, if root structure or other soft material is present; any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord material; and brain-tanned hide. Once these parts are removed, the meat on or off the bone; hides cleaned of all brain tissue; skull plates and/or antlers cleaned of all brain tissue; upper canine teeth without soft tissue; or finished taxidermy mounts may be transported throughout the state.

CWD is a fatal disease of cervids, currently impacting deer and threatening elk in Pennsylvania. CWD is believed to be caused by a misfolded protein called a prion. While studies suggest that CWD is primarily spread through animal-to-animal contact, animals can become infected through prion-contaminated environments. Prions can be shed into the environment through saliva, urine, or feces. Once in the environment, prions can remain infectious for several years. Recent studies in other states show CWD can reduce deer survival and populations. Unfortunately, there currently is no cure or treatment for CWD.

While there are no known cases of CWD infecting humans, experimental studies have shown that non-human primates can become infected with CWD through consumption of infected meat. These studies raise concerns that CWD may pose a potential threat to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) recommends that no one knowingly consume meat from CWD-infected animals. The Game Commission recommends hunters who harvest deer within DMAs get their deer tested for CWD prior to consuming. Hunters can get their deer tested free-of-charge by placing their deer head with harvest tag attached and double-bagged in a head-collection container provided by the Game Commission. Locations of head-collection containers will be available closer to deer hunting seasons at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

The Game Commission is responsible for the management of Pennsylvania's deer and elk herd for current and future generations to come. While the Game Commission is responsible for managing this disease, it is the public who will ultimately determine the disease's fate. You can help by abiding by CWD regulations—this includes not feeding wild deer or using natural urine-based attractants in the field. Hunters can help by limiting the movement of and properly disposing of high-risk parts. Hunters can help detection efforts by filling DMAP permits and submitting heads for testing. Landowners can help by opening access to land for hunters within DMAP units. And everyone can help by educating not only ourselves, but those around us. Together we can fight CWD!

To find more information on CWD check out pages 57-60 in your 2019-2020 Hunting and Trapping Digest, call 1-833-INFOCWD, or go to our website at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania Game Commission

