

2020 Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease that affects the central nervous system of deer, elk, moose and caribou. There is no cure or prevention for the disease.

CWD is caused by infectious proteins, called prions. They accumulate in the nervous tissue of the animal, causing microscopic holes in the brain. Animals appear healthy in the early stages of the disease. CWD is impacting cervid (deer, moose, elk and caribou) populations in many areas of North America.

The disease can be transmitted directly from one animal to another through saliva, feces, urine, or contaminated soil and water.

In Saskatchewan, hunters can have their animals tested for CWD free of charge.

CWD Priority Wildlife Management Zones

Long-term monitoring sites are being established in wildlife management zones (WMZs) 2W, 9, 10, 35, 37, 50 and 55 to obtain more precise data about the presence and spread of the disease in certain areas of the province. In particular, hunters are asked to submit mule deer and white-tailed deer heads for testing in these target zones.

The Ministry of Environment is aiming to collect at least 300 samples in each of the targeted zones to more accurately assess changes in the disease and help guide management decisions.

Testing is available for all cervid species harvested within the province, including elk and moose from the target zones.

Prior to submitting a head for testing, you must visit cwdsk.ca to receive a CWD tracking number. Heads can be submitted for testing at a number of designated drop-off locations across the province. Visit saskatchewan.ca/cwd for locations and details.

See target zone map
on next page

2020 CWD Sample Target Zones

