



Responding to New Wild Deer Detections in New Locations

Wisconsin Statute [s. 29.063\(1\)](#), Stats. gives the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) authority to manage chronic wasting disease (CWD) in cervids. Managing and responding to CWD is a top priority of the DNR and the Wildlife Management program. On-going surveillance and responding quickly and effectively to new positive CWD detections in wild deer in new areas where CWD has not previously been detected, are two of our highest priority activities, with the goal of minimizing the area where CWD occurs and number of infected deer.

Summary

Disease surveillance is the organized collection, collation, and analysis of data, including testing results and location, on disease occurrence. This includes not only the actions of collecting tissue samples to test for the disease, but also the planning, evaluation, assessment, and analysis of the information gathered. All samples with corresponding data, from both CWD-positive and CWD-not detected deer, are equally important for disease surveillance. When CWD is detected in the wild in a new area, the first step is verification of the location. The next step is to collect tissue samples from wild deer to determine the possible distribution of CWD in the surrounding area, also referred to in the Department as disease **assessment** surveillance. This surveillance method is intended to determine the intensity and geographic distribution of a possible CWD infection by collecting tissue samples from dead deer in the area using a variety of methods including hunter harvested deer, car-killed deer, and reported sick deer. Surveillance is not intended to significantly reduce local deer populations.

If additional CWD positive deer are found through these assessment efforts, then disease **management** goals may be established, and direct actions may be applied to contain the spread and reduce the number of CWD-infected deer in the area.

The purpose of this document is to describe the steps that will be taken to identify disease surveillance plans, including CWD sample collection efforts and the citizen engagement process, that will be used to develop localized disease management actions when CWD is detected in a new county or a positive detection outside of a 10-mile radius surveillance area within a county with a known CWD positive detection. (*See Appendix I: Response for Initial CWD Positive Detection in Wild Deer*, for a summary of the procedures outlined in this text.)

Outreach and engagement with local stakeholders are important components of the DNR's response to new wild CWD detections in new locations. In order to inform effective decisions in response to new detections it is critical to obtain sufficient samples to understand the extent and location of the disease. The choice of methods to obtain sufficient CWD sampling intensity will be made by the DNR, in consultation with the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs) and other local stakeholders. In general, preference will be given to obtaining samples through voluntary submission from hunters and landowners, which will be informed by local education and outreach, including contacts with local media.

The DNR will not require CDACs to schedule meetings on issues that fall outside their scope of authority as described in Administrative Rule [s. NR 10.104 \(5\)\(b\)\(c\)\(d\)\(e\)](#). For CWD discussions, individual CDACs may agree to schedule meetings on these issues as requested by the DNR, but the public meeting will be hosted by the DNR and CDAC as a joint effort. If a CDAC does not agree to meet to discuss CWD, then the DNR will lead public meetings on the issue in the county.

Sequence of Actions in Response to New CWD Detections in New Locations

Initial CWD Detection

Within the first two weeks

- Wildlife Health team members facilitate notifications in accordance to the New CWD Positive Location form and program protocols.
 - A local DNR Response Team consisting of local wildlife management and law enforcement staff will be led by the Area Wildlife Supervisor and assisted by the Area Warden Supervisor.
 - The local DNR wildlife biologist and conservation warden will work with the hunter/observer to confirm the location of the deer that tested positive.
 - The Area Wildlife Supervisor will notify CDAC members, select local conservation groups/constituents, and appropriate elected local officials in affected counties to make them aware of the detection and answer questions.
 - DNR Wildlife Health staff will notify the Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Division of Animal Health, as well as Department of Health Services.
 - DNR Tribal Liaison will notify tribal representatives if a new detection is within or in close proximity to the ceded territory or lands of a federally recognized tribal entity.
- A map identifying the affected counties within a 10-mile radius of the positive will be created.
- An intensive surveillance area of approximately the 10-mile radius will be delineated, with the exact boundary of this area determined based on local deer populations, habitat, road boundaries, and terrain. This area will be the focus of surveillance and if warranted, future management efforts.
- Rules regarding [rehabilitation of deer](#) from CWD-affected counties will apply to the counties affected by the new positive detection.
- S. [NR 10.105](#), concerning the [movement of deer carcasses](#) will apply to counties affected by the new positive detection.
- Per [s. 29.336\(2\)](#), Stats., and [s. NR 10.07 \(2m\)\(b\)](#), a baiting and feeding ban for deer will be enacted by order of the Secretary in the county where the positive detection occurred and in adjoining counties within a 10-mile radius of the positive detection.
- The DNR Wildlife Management program will issue a statewide news release, and other communications outreach if needed, when the first CWD positive detection is confirmed within a county or outside of a 10-mile radius surveillance area within a county with a known CWD positive detection.

Within the first month

- The Area Wildlife Supervisor in conjunction with the local wildlife biologist and the CDAC chair will schedule a public meeting with CDAC members to review information per the CDAC advisory role and discuss next steps. If the new detection area affects multiple counties or if there is interest from CDAC members, a CDAC CWD Advisory Team may be formed, but is not required. (*See Appendix II CDAC CWD Advisory Team Template*). Advisory team recommendations will be advanced to the District Wildlife Supervisor and final decisions will be made by the DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management and Office of the Secretary.
- In consultation/collaboration with DATCP Division of Animal Health, the DNR Response Team will review any applicable information relative to farm-raised deer facilities to inform wild deer surveillance efforts in the area.
- The DNR Wildlife Management program will disseminate up-to-date information statewide as efficiently and effectively as possible, however, the focus of primary communications will occur with individuals that live and hunt in the surveillance area.

Surveillance planning within the first month

- Local DNR Wildlife Management staff may use field and aerial survey techniques to identify deer concentration areas and estimate the deer population in the surveillance area as soon as feasible.
- The Area Wildlife Supervisor, in consultation with the DNR Office of Applied Science Statistician and Wildlife Health Section Chief and other appropriate Wildlife Health team members, will develop a sampling plan and determine a sample goal for the surveillance area to assess the intensity and distribution of CWD based on the estimated deer population in the area. The number of samples that will need to be collected to assess the disease with 90%, 95%, or 99% confidence will be delineated.
- Existing surveillance data for the surveillance area will be evaluated. Typically, existing surveillance data will be derived from hunter submitted CWD testing within the 12-24 months prior to the new detection. Unless surveillance goals for the surveillance area have already been met as a result of existing recent testing, the DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners to collect additional CWD samples from adult deer within the surveillance area. The heaviest weight of sampling may be within a 2 to 3-mile radius of the new detection location; however samples will also be collected within the intensive surveillance area based on the surveillance sampling plan the DNR will develop.
- During the fall hunting season and winter months following, DNR staff will seek to collect sufficient CWD samples within the 10-mile radius and/or surrounding areas.
- During the fall hunting season and winter months following, DNR staff may provide, or look for assistance with providing, carcass disposal options when feasible.

Surveillance planning within the first year and beyond

- The DNR Wildlife management program will continue to disseminate information as needed, with individuals that live and hunt in the surveillance area. This may include additional news releases and other communications outreach if additional positives are detected.
- The Area Wildlife Supervisor, local wildlife biologist, and CDAC chair may schedule additional public meetings, if deemed necessary. The annual CDAC meetings will include up-to-date information on surveillance efforts.
- Annual evaluation of surveillance efforts to determine if sample goals are being met and if needed, modify sample collection methods to seek to achieve goals.

Sample Collection

A suitable CWD sample is the medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes and/or in some cases, the obex. Suitable samples may be taken in the field (ex. Field sample collection) or may be submitted as a suitable deer head. A suitable deer head refers to the lymph nodes, head, and at least three (3) inches of neck attached and extending down from the base of the skull. Samples for CWD analysis may be collected in the following ways:

Year-round:

- As part of a local communications effort, the DNR will encourage the public to report sick deer observations to the local wildlife biologist. Staff will prioritize response to reports of sick or possible symptomatic deer per sick deer response guidance.
- DNR WM/LE staff can verbally grant the authority to landowners (who are comfortable doing so) to remove deer exhibiting CWD symptoms, at any time of year.
- The DNR may request CWD samples be submitted from vehicle-killed adult deer by vehicle-killed pickup contractors or DNR staff.
- The DNR may require CWD samples be submitted from adult deer harvested via agricultural damage or nuisance deer harvest permits.

- The DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners within preferably the 2 to 3-mile radius, but at least within the 10-mile radius surveillance area. Surveillance permits are valid Sept 1 – April 30th.

During Fall Hunting Season:

- The local DNR wildlife biologist will work with the local hunting community to encourage voluntary submission of samples for CWD analysis from hunter harvested deer. Samples may be submitted in the following ways:
 - Self-service kiosks
 - Participating cooperators (meat processors, taxidermists)
 - DNR sample collection stations
 - By appointment with the local wildlife biologist
- Per [s. 23.09\(2\)\(p\)](#), Stats., and [s. NR 10.085\(7\)](#) and [\(8\)](#), the DNR may require that all deer harvested within a defined area be submitted for testing and registered at a DNR operated sample collection station within a defined period.
- The DNR will continue to provide hunter service testing for adult deer anywhere in the state.
- The DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners within preferably the 2 to 3-mile radius, but at least within the 10-mile radius surveillance area. Surveillance permits are valid Sept 1 – April 30th.

During Winter/Spring Following Fall Hunting Season:

- The DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners within preferably the 2 to 3-mile radius, but at least within the 10-mile radius surveillance area. Surveillance permits are valid Sept 1 – April 30th.
- DNR may permit localized culling of deer on public and/or private land through landowner involvement or contracting.
- DNR may perform or may permit trapping with subsequent euthanasia for sample collection.

If the above listed sources are insufficient to meet sample goals, the following options (identified by the CWD Response Plan Review Committee), may be recommended by the County Deer Advisory Council and could be applied through the appropriate chain of command within the Bureau of Wildlife Management:

- Localized culling on public and/or private land through landowner involvement or contracting.
- Trapping with subsequent euthanasia (post-deer season).
- Required in-person deer registration and sample submission.
- Other options would be considered as presented by the local CDAC.

Surveillance will be conducted for up to five (5) years following the initial detection, with annual review of the surveillance plan and associated actions in cooperation with the CDAC and local area citizens. If no additional CWD positive results are identified during this timeframe, the enhanced surveillance and sampling effort may be suspended however hunter service testing will still be available. If additional CWD positives are identified, then surveillance may continue and disease management actions may begin in cooperation with CDAC(s) and local area citizens. The type of surveillance and management response actions may be influenced by the number and distribution of additional positives detected each year.

CWD Management

Controlling the prevalence and distribution of CWD requires both the reduction of CWD-positive deer and reducing the number of susceptible deer through overall herd reduction.

If additional positives are detected during the preliminary disease surveillance efforts, a more intensive disease **management** course of action will be considered for a minimum of five (5) years, from the date of when the subsequent positives were detected. CWD samples may continue to be collected using the techniques described above, but may also consider other options as presented by the CDAC. Efforts to remove and sample sick deer will remain a priority year-round in accordance to staff guidance for responding to sick deer. Management actions could be applied through the appropriate chain of command within the Bureau of Wildlife Management and will depend on the results of surveillance to determine CWD prevalence and distribution. The management actions below will be discussed with the CDAC to reduce the spread and number of CWD infected deer in the area.

Year round:

- The DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners within preferably the 2 to 3-mile radius, but at least within the 10-mile radius surveillance area. Surveillance permits are valid year-round except between May 1 – August 31.

During Fall Hunting Season:

- Additional days of hunting opportunity.
- Additional harvest tags.
- Required CWD testing and deer registration within the surveillance area.
- The DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners or for public land within preferably the 2 to 3-mile radius, but at least within the 10-mile radius surveillance area. Surveillance permits are valid Sept 1 – April 30th.

During Winter/Spring Following Fall Hunting Season:

- Localized culling on public and/or private land through landowner involvement or contracting.
- Trapping with subsequent euthanasia.
- The DNR may issue CWD surveillance permits to landowners or for public land within preferably the 2 to 3-mile radius, but at least within the 10-mile radius surveillance area. Surveillance permits are valid Sept 1 – April 30th.

These CWD management actions will be reviewed and reassessed annually. If no additional CWD positive results are identified then disease management actions may be suspended, however hunter service testing will still be available. If additional CWD positives are identified, then disease management actions may continue in cooperation with CDAC(s) and local area citizens.

Appendix I: Response for Initial CWD Positive Detection in Wild Deer

When a new CWD positive wild deer is detected in a new area, the following response actions and increased CWD sampling efforts will begin in the intensive surveillance area around the location. Efforts will continue for at least 5-years unless additional CWD positive detections are identified, at which case surveillance and management may continue longer.

Response & Planning

First two weeks

- Confirm location
- Form DNR Response Team
- Notify CDAC(s), DATCP, Tribal Liaison, local government legislators
- Create 10-mile radius map around location
- Delineate intensive surveillance area utilizing local deer populations, habitat, road boundaries, and terrain
- Deer rehabilitation restrictions
- Deer carcass movement restrictions
- Baiting and feeding bans
- Statewide press release

First month

- Estimate deer population in focus area
- Evaluate recent year and cumulative CWD sample numbers in focus area
- Identify sample collection goal within surveillance area
- Schedule public meeting
- DATCP consult on captive cervid farms nearby
- Statewide and local updates
- Continue response efforts in focus area for **at least 5 years**

First year and beyond

- Disseminate information as needed, additional CDAC meetings if needed
- Annual evaluation of surveillance efforts

CWD Sampling

Year-round

- Sick deer reports and testing
- Authorize removal of sick deer on landscape
- Car-killed deer, ag damage, nuisance deer testing
- Surveillance permits from September 1 – April 30

Fall hunting season

- Collect samples via self-service kiosks, cooperators, DNR sample locations, DNR staff appointment, surveillance permits from September 1 – April 30, hunter service request

Winter following fall hunting season

- Surveillance permits from September 1 – April 30
- Localized culling
- Trapping with subsequent euthanasia

CDAC recommendations to Bureau of Wildlife Management

- Localized culling on public and/or private land through landowner involvement or contracting
- Trapping with subsequent euthanasia (post-deer season)
- Required in-person deer registration and sample submission
- Other options would be considered as presented by the local CDAC

Additional CWD positives detected?

No additional detections

Enhanced surveillance and sampling effort may be suspended however hunter service testing will still be available.

Yes additional detections = at least 5 more years of increased response

Continue response and sampling efforts listed above.

Additional actions:

Fall hunting season

Increase days of hunting and harvest authorizations

Winter following fall hunting season

Localized culling and/or trapping with euthanasia

Appendix II: CWD Advisory Team Template

Purpose and Objectives

The CWD Advisory Team is an ad-hoc advisory team made up of representatives of County Deer Advisory Councils for each county with a wild CWD positive and within the 10-mile area surrounding the location. The purpose of the team is to serve as an advisory body to the DNR regarding local CWD surveillance and management and will seek to meet the following objectives:

- Gather and consider public opinion regarding CWD and options for surveillance and management.
- Review and consider the best available peer reviewed information on CWD.
- Provide the Department with recommendations regarding local surveillance areas, surveillance methods and management options.

Membership

The team will be made up of two members from the detection county, and if applicable, one representative from each county within the 10-mile area surrounding the location. Representatives will be selected by their respective CDAC membership. In addition to the standing members, each county will also have one alternate member. The team will be chaired by one of the two selected members from the detection county, and the alternate-chair will be elected by the team.

Member Expectations

Members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. If a member is unable to attend, they should let the chair know they will not attend and ensure that the alternate member attends. Member comments will be brief, not dominate the discussion, and allow other members to speak. Members can politely disagree with ideas but will not be disrespectful to other's opinions. Disrespectful behavior or comments towards any other team member, facilitator, attendees or citizens will lead to removal of people displaying such behavior from the meeting and possibly from the team.

Roles of the Chair

The chair is responsible for facilitating the activities of the advisory team, including but not limited to:

1. Maintain impartiality toward the views of all members and the public. Remain neutral except in order to make or break a tie in a decision-making situation.
2. Work with the DNR's Wildlife Liaison to help schedule meetings and determine meeting locations in the timeframe requested by the DNR.
3. Communicate meeting details to all team members.
4. Keep the team on-task and manage public comments to focus on the meeting objective and responsibilities.
5. Enforce the rules of debate and restrict debate to the merits of the pending question.
6. Initiate team votes on recommendations.
7. Ensure meetings are run in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order* and the guidelines provided here.
8. Ensure the meetings provide a safe and respectful environment for discussion.
9. Provide all team members and citizens with an opportunity to voice their opinion. Individual public comments should adhere to a 3-minute time limit.
10. Recognize who may have the floor.

In this leadership role, the chair only votes in a situation to cast the final vote that would make or break a tie. If the chair's vote makes a tie, then the motion is removed, and a new motion must be proposed and voted on. If the total votes of council members result in a tie, then the vote of the chair can be used to break that tie.

Appendix II: CWD Advisory Team Template

Roles of the Alternate-Chair

The alternate-chair is responsible for presiding over the meeting in the absence of the chair and taking notes to create a complete set of minutes for each meeting.

1. The alternate-chair has all of the rights of a member of the team. The alternate chair may participate in discussion and make or second a motion
2. In the event that the alternate-chair is fulfilling the role of chair, the alternate-chair would then vote only to make a break a tie.
3. Meeting minutes and recommendations must be completed and shared with the team and Wildlife Liaison.
4. Chairs and alternate-chairs should work closely to ensure minutes from each meeting are complete, accurate, and provided to the DNR.

Roles of Department Wildlife Liaison

Local Wildlife Management staff will serve as the primary liaisons to the team and will work with them to help schedule meetings, determine meeting locations and provide professional input on deer management issues. The Wildlife Liaison is responsible for publicly noticing all meetings on the DNR public hearing calendar as far in advance as possible, but no less than 24 hours prior to any single meeting. Wildlife liaisons will present a variety of metrics including but not limited to existing CWD surveillance data, proposed CWD surveillance plan, car kill deer information, forest browse data, deer hunter survey results, deer harvest data, season summaries, population estimates and additional metric information as requested by the team. Wildlife liaisons will share their professional opinion at meetings. Wildlife liaisons will collect and keep any comment cards from public meetings for 30 days in accordance with the Wildlife Management Records Disposition Authorization (RDA). DNR Law Enforcement staff will serve as contacts for the team on an as-needed basis.

Meetings

Frequency: At least one annual meeting with additional meetings scheduled as requested by the team or the DNR. All meetings are subject to Wisconsin's Open Meeting Law. Meeting agendas will be provided by the DNR in consultation with the chair at least 48 hours prior to any meeting.

Quorum: A quorum is a majority of the voting committee members. A quorum must be present, either in person or by telephone/Skype, at a meeting for any voting action to be taken. If a quorum is not present, then the meeting may continue as informational only.

Citizen participation: All meetings will provide an opportunity for citizen participation and may only provide comments/testimony during the public comment period. Each citizen's comments and testimony may be limited by the chair to 3-minutes. Team members may ask clarifying questions of citizens presenting testimony, but members should not get into debates with the public.

Governance: This team will operate under the parameters set forth in the CDAC governance document.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

DOCUMENT ID

WM-19-0011-C

DOCUMENT TITLE

Chronic Wasting Disease – Responding to New Wild Deer Detections in New Locations

PROGRAM/BUREAU

Wildlife Management

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 :

DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Nov. 4, 2019

DATE FINALIZED

Dec. 9, 2019

DNR CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

Handwritten signature of Samara Ryan in cursive script.

Signature

12/3/19

Date