



Last Updated July 2023

# CWD Testing Frequently Asked Questions

## Which deer should be tested for CWD?

Hunters can submit samples from harvested bucks and does of any age. While older bucks are slightly more likely to test positive for CWD, testing deer of all ages and sexes increases our ability to find CWD if and wherever it is present.

## How do I get my deer tested?

- Testing drop-off stations (freezers) are available during deer hunting season so you can drop off your deer head when it is most convenient to you. Generally, these are available any time of the day. See [interactive map](#) for locations and hours of operation.
- NCWRC-staffed check stations are scheduled for certain days of the season when a high volume of harvest occurs. Check stations are usually run outside a cooperating deer processor or similar location. Staffed check station days and times are subject to change, please check the schedule for updates.
- Processors and taxidermists that collect CWD samples as part of the Cervid Health Cooperator program will receive deer during their normal business hours, listed under their information on [interactive map](#). Not all Cervid Health Cooperators have chosen to be listed on our website. Contact your local processor or taxidermist to see if they are part of the Program. It is advised to call ahead before visiting these businesses to ensure they are open. Typically, these cooperators do not test every deer that enters their businesses, so tell them that you would like your deer tested when you drop it off. Note: with a few exceptions, processors and taxidermists enrolled in the Cervid Health Cooperator program only test deer brought to them by paying customers.

## Can I leave the antlers on a deer and submit it to a testing drop-off station?

Yes, you may leave the antlers on your deer and still submit it to a testing drop-off station. However, removing the antlers allows more space for other samples and reduces the possibility that holes get poked in the bag. If you do not remove antlers from your deer, you will not receive those antlers back from the NCWRC. They will be discarded.

If you decide to remove the entire skull cap (rather than each individual antler), please take care to place any portions of brain attached to the skull cap in the bag with the deer head.

## How long does it take to get the test results back?

Test results are expected to take 4-6 weeks from deer harvested in CWD Surveillance Areas and 7-9 weeks from deer harvested elsewhere in the state. Staff are making every effort to get samples to the laboratory as quickly as possible, but there are many steps in the process. If your deer tests positive for CWD, you will be contacted by a NCWRC biologist.

[View your test results](#)

## How likely is it for my deer to test positive for CWD?

CWD has been detected in several counties in North Carolina. Currently very few deer in the northwestern region have tested positive for CWD compared to the total number of deer tested. Testing is being increased substantially in the southeastern region to better understand disease prevalence and distribution in that area.

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## Can I still get my deer shoulder mounted if I get it tested for CWD?

Yes. Find a taxidermist who is a Cervid Health Cooperator on this map and take them your deer. Be sure to follow carcass movement regulations when transporting your deer. Cervid Health Cooperators will pull a sample for CWD testing and submit it to the NCWRC after caping your deer for mounting. If your taxidermist is not a Cervid Health Cooperator, find one who is and have them cape your deer and pull CWD samples for testing; you can then transport the clean cape to your taxidermist.