



CWD Testing Drop-off Station



NCWRC

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 from all age and sex classes 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 throughout 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 individual locations.
- 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 a similar location. Staffed check stations days and times are subject to change.
- 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 the [interactive map](#). Not all Cervid Health Cooperators have agreed 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 for testing at 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 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?

On March 31, 2022, results from the first CWD-positive deer in North Carolina were confirmed from a buck harvested in Yadkin County. The full range and prevalence of CWD in NC are currently unknown, but the NCWRC is increasing surveillance to better understand the affected area.

For more information visit: ncwildlife.org/CWD