

From DNR Warden Steve Swiertz,

Attached are the EHD talking points provided by DNR wildlife staff. This was approved on the 31st of August. In talking with wildlife staff earlier today, looks like the number of reported, deceased deer is over 600 and expected to keep rising. Washington Co. continues to bear the brunt of it but reports are coming in from Waukesha, Dodge and Ozaukee Counties as well. Our wildlife staff are and would like to be the primary contact for reporting dead deer and fielding related questions. Contact info is in the attached document. I will put it below as well.

Lately I have been fielding questions from hunters asking if the deer season in Washington Co. can be restricted or shut down. I am unable to speak on that question, simply because I do not know. I have been encouraging people to reach out to the DNR Natural Resources Board (the policy setting body for the DNR that would have to approve any rule changes) or their local elected official.

Wash./Oz. Co. DNR Biologist – Steffen Petersen – 262-666-3157

DNR Wildlife Switchboard – 608-267-0866 (for reporting dead deer)

NRB Contact - 608-267-7420

From **Kelsey Norton** Wauk Co DNR Biologist

Phone: 262-424-9902

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Good Morning,

Just as an FYI since I said I would update you. There are a few reports of dead deer across the Waukesha Co border coming in. These are within 5 miles of a confirmed positive in Washington Co so we are not testing them. Our protocol is testing anything outside of a 20 mile radius of a known positive. Please let me know if you have questions, I'm happy to share some general FAQs about EHD in Wisconsin.

Thanks,

From Kelsey Norton Wauk Co DNR Biologist

Phone: 262-424-9902

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Hi MarySusan,

As I'm sure you and the other WCC/CDAC members are aware changes to the hunting season structure would be extremely unlikely and some of the suggestions would take legislative action.

While I know this situation is very visible to local residents and its hard to see past the day to day, it is important to keep in mind this is a VERY small subset of the total population. While we are still getting more data every day the current estimate of deer impacted between the 2 counties is in the triple digits. However, the latest total estimated post hunt population between the two counties was 32,700 deer. Even if the number of EHD cases reaches 1000 cases this is still less then 5% of the total population. In Wisconsin we've never had an EHD outbreak of a large scale that caused impacts to the overall deer population in an area and I have no reason to believe this will be the first.

The best thing people can do is too continue to report the number of sick or dead deer they are finding. If we do not get that information then we really have no way of estimating the impact EHD is having.

Thanks!

Kelsey Norton Wauk Co DNR Biologist

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