May 26, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
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Wemindji
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Eastmain
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Waskaganish
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Nemaska
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Waswanipi
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Ouje-Bougoumou
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Mistissini
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Public Statement

As the Cree Nation moves into a different phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and considering the unique situation of the Cree Nation, it is imperative the people understand that the Cree Nation has their own deconfinement plan which is very different from the Quebec deconfinement plan appropriate for Southern jurisdictions, but not for our own. People must be careful not to confuse terminology with terminology that is being used in other jurisdictions or recommendations that are not appropriate for Eeyou Istchee.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay appreciates the Cree Nation Governments exercising their jurisdiction to assist the Health Board in managing and planning for operations and capacity in relation to COVID-19.

The Health Board is working hard to explain that the deconfinement process must be seen as a gradual process following in reverse the steps the Cree Nation followed when confining.

Eeyou Istchee remains stable at 10 cases from the beginning of the pandemic with 1 active case as of today. 9 have now officially recovered. If this trend continues the people should be confident that the region is COVID-19 free and people should feel confident as they travel between communities. People will still need to respect physical distancing and other precautionary measures. As we enter this new phase the Health Board will be doing more and more screening, with no positive test result so far. Front line workers, staff and returning patients are being tested regardless of symptoms and the screening is giving encouraging results.

Hence, as of today;
416 regular tests have been administered

395 returned negative

11 waiting for results

57 additional asymptomatic screening tests, with longer waiting period for results from these tests. Hopefully, the resource issue at the lab will be addressed to accelerate process.

The rest of Quebec is seeing a very slow descending slope which means that the risk will not disappear quickly. There is hope that the regions will continue to improve and more areas can be designated as low risk areas providing greater mobility to community members.

Region 10 -Nord du Quebec has the same status of Eeyou Istchee currently has the same region of Eeyou Istchee and can there be considered a zone of limited risk for the time being.

Region 8 - Abitibi still has cases that are of concern and therefore continues to represent a risk.

Region 2 –Saguenay-Lac St-Jean also has cases that are of concern and therefore continues to represent a risk.

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Therefore, for now, the Areas Representing a Risk are:

- Anywhere outside Eeyou Istchee, Nunavik and Region 10
- Any mine site
- Any forestry camp
- Any Hydro-Quebec site

People are reminded that as they begin to travel or consider traveling it is extremely important to practice physical distancing and precautionary measures. Everyone must do what they can to protect fellow community members. People are also discouraged from planning travel to risky areas. Please also note that your community may have a more narrowly defined area where it is considered safe to travel and it is very important to remain informed of your local self-isolation requirements.

The stability of our region allows us to consider deconfinement in a progressive responsible manner. It is not recommended to begin deconfinement before June 9th, 2020. It is only as we see how the Cree Nation transitions through each phase before it can be determined how quickly the Cree Nation can pursue deconfinement.

*For more information on the Deconfinement Plan for Eeyou Istchee, please consult the CBHSSJB's information page on COVID-19:
https://eeyouistcheecovid19.org/tools-for-general-public/eeyou-istchee-deconfinement.

Cree School Board

Post-Secondary students have been informed that they will be entitled to their June allowance. This will help ease the pressure on them to travel prematurely to the communities. The School Board is also working with the communities to ensure that any students who wish to travel to their community do so in accordance with public health protocols.

In addition, the Cree School Board is working closely with ASD to communicate programs available to help students and youth during the summer months.

A reminder to all secondary 4 and 5 students: there is still time to earn credits before the deadline of June 5! Please visit eeyoueducation.ca/olp and click on your grade.

Reliable Sources

People are advised to continue exercising caution on where they get their information in relation to COVID-19 and to keep in mind that the reliable sources of information remain:

https://eeyouistcheecovid19.org/
www.cngov.ca/covid-19/
www.creehealth.org
www.eeyoueducation.ca
https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/
https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.htm

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