May 5, 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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Washaw Sibi
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Public Statement

The Cree Nation mourns the loss of Emma Trapper of Mistissini. Mrs. Trapper leaves behind a grieving family and community. As a member of our very cherished elders' community, she represents the first loss for a First Nation of Quebec to COVID-19. The leadership of the Cree Nation offers their condolences and prayers to the family and all those touched by the loss of Mrs. Trapper.

Continuing to practice physical distancing and other precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 remains very important. People must remember that commitment to physical distancing and the very challenging precautionary measures that are in place is a reflection of our commitment to the vulnerable members of our community and our elders, our most cherished resource for our culture, language and identity.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Over the weekend there were two new cases in Eeyou Istchee bringing the total cases since the beginning of the pandemic to 10. The 2 cases are close contacts associated with a case of an individual that traveled from Montreal last week, and as such had been under isolation since their return to the community. The good news is that there are now four (4) people officially recovered in Eeyou Istchee meaning that there are now 6 active cases. Even though total of cases since the beginning of the outbreak in the region has gone up, we are reassured to see that the number of active cases in the region has remained quite stable in time.

- 313 tests have been carried out
- 285 have tested negative
- 18 are awaiting test results

It is important to understand that there are sometimes discrepancies on how the Government of Quebec and the Cree Board of Health report cases. At times, Quebec will place an artificially high number for Eeyou Istchee because they will include Cree patients who have contracted COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the South.

The Cree Health Board continues to make improvement to Cree Patients' Services capacity and adapting measures to keep patients safe when they leave Eeyou Istchee for medical purposes. It is important for people to understand that when they are sent out of the community it is for very important and serious reason and that everything is being done to keep them safe when they go to access these critical services. Indeed, although the total number of deaths appears high in the province the mortality rate in acute care hospitals remains below 1%, testifying of the excellent quality of care provided in these institutions.

The Cree Health Board is working on a Re-Opening Plan that will be based on based on the best available evidence, as well as principles and standards of recognized internal health authorities. There are important milestones that need to be achieved such as the reintroduction of students from the south or the end of the traditional goose break before the Cree Nation can wisely consider moving from one phase of restricted activity to the next. The Cree Health Board will continue to monitor this process very closely and adjust their reopening plan accordingly.

Cree School Board

The Cree School Board continues to support Post-Secondary students who remain in their places of study. For those Post-Secondary students who are returning to communities, the Board is working with communities to coordinate travel. Students are reminded to contact the Post-Secondary Student Services office before traveling and to follow all protocols upon returning to their home community.

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EEPF

With goose break communities are getting quieter but the EEPF continues to operate under normal conditions while remaining focused on prevention support for local management measures.

Reliable Sources

Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

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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