

### June 16, 2020

## **Public Update on COVID-19**

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**Whapmagoostui** ḋΛLd∽⊃Δ

Chisasibi CZYY

Wemindji

Eastmain ∆¹7°

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Nemaska ۰۵۲۶b°

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Duje-Bougoumo PJ>47

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#### **Public Statement**

The Cree leadership is proud of the strength and resolve that the Cree people continue to show during these very challenging times. The Cree leadership expresses their sincere condolences and prays for those families who have lost loved ones and find themselves unable to say goodbye the way we are accustomed. It is more important than ever that we show each other the love and patience we feel for one another.

#### Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Health Board monitors the status of COVID-19 internationally and domestically to ensure that we continue to be well informed on how to combat COVID-19 and keep it from entering our communities.

Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean (Region 02) has declared 9 cases since Thursday. Following contact tracing procedures, over 60 people have been placed under investigation. The region continues to be an area of concern since the Cree leadership was required to declare the region an area of risk.

Nord du Quebec (Region 10) has had no reported cases in the last 40 days. The region implements a strong screening process like our own, continuing to screen all healthcare workers and other workers entering the region.

Abitibi (Region 08) also continues to be stable with no new cases in the last 4 weeks.

It has been 47 days since the last reported case in Eeyou Istchee (Region 18), meaning we remain a very stable region.

Therefore, for now, the Areas of Risk are:

- Anywhere outside Eeyou Istchee, Nunavik, Nord du Quebec (Region 10) and Abitibi (Region 08)
- · Any mine site
- Any forestry camp
- Any Hydro-Quebec site

Travelling to these Areas of Risk will require self-isolation. Travelling within Eeyou Istchee is safe but people are reminded that although you may not have to selfisolate when coming from another community you should not be planning visits or activities in communities that are not permitted under Phase 1 of the Cree Nation Deconfinement Plan, for example, you may be able to travel to a neighboring Cree community but it is not recommended to gather or visit indoors, people must remain 2 metres from one another. It is also important to keep in mind that communities may have more restrictive rules than your own community.

With 10 cases officially recovered, regular testing for COVID-19 in Eeyou Istchee is currently at:

- 498 regular tests have been administered
- 484 returned negative
- 4 waiting for results



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MoCreebec ⅃եւՆV<sup>ь</sup> The Cree Health Board wants to remind everyone what got us to this situation. It was the hard work of all leadership and community members. It is very important that everyone do what they can because it only takes one person who decides to ignore precautionary measures and other restrictions. This was the case in New Brunswick where one person is responsible for 29 confirmed cases and thousands of man hours to track down potential infections.

It is extremely important to practice physical distancing and precautionary measures. Everyone must do what they can to protect fellow community members. 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 Cree Health Board continues to work to maintain and improve patient services where they can, even during these trying times. Unfortunately, there was incident with the transport service for Cree patients in Montreal where an individual was disrespectful to Cree clientele. The Health Board has responded quickly to put an immediate end to the relationship with the service provider and will be finding a new service provider to ensure that Cree patients get the service they need with the respect they deserve.

People are encouraged to visit <a href="www.cngov.ca/COVID-directives">www.cngov.ca/COVID-directives</a>. On this site people can consult Directives as they become available explaining the different activities that are permissible with conditions and adaptations as the Cree Nation moves through different phases of the Deconfinement Plan.

#### **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