June 4, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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Public Statement

The Cree Nation extends its condolences to the family of George Masty and the community of Whapmagoostui. George has greatly contributed to the Cree Health Board and will be greatly missed.

We are also saddened by the loss of Lawrence House. Our sympathies to the family and many friends of Lawrence across the Cree Nation. The contribution of both these men to the well-being of our Nation will be remembered.

Lifting of SQ checkpoints on June 9 will be closely monitored as travel becomes less restricted. The security of the communities continues to be the priority as Phase 1 of the deconfinement plan begins on June 9. Respect of precautionary measures will be important to maintain during this time so that Eeyou Istchee remains a safe place to be.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

As communities, organizations and businesses begin considering moving forward the Work Place Health Team has been active and receiving requests regarding which activities and sectors can open on June 9, 2020. Each request is being evaluated and responded to with the technical information needed. The way to access the Risk Assessment Committee is by writing an email to: 18tcr.phcovidteam@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Regular testing for COVID-19 in Eeyou Istchee is currently at:

- 455 regular tests have been administered
- 435 returned negative
- 10 waiting for results

The Cree Health Board is doing more screening tests focusing on Health Workers, patients returning home and other high-risk groups such as elder's home workers. The current Screening results are:

- 205 screening tests
- 30 awaiting results
- 175 returned negative

With regards to travel, the Cree Health Board would like to remind people that it is considered safe to travel for non-essential reasons within Eeyou Istchee, between communities and within Region 10. Self-Isolation is not required with traveling within Eeyou Istchee Region, with the exception of specific work sites.

Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

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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

Traveling to these areas will require self-isolation.

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.

Eeyou Eenou Police Force

Officers are taking all necessary precautions to safely carry out interventions with appropriate equipment. Screening tests also being carried out for EEPF officers. No cases to report.

In preparation for summer, operations to ensure that all communities have up-to-date security measures in the event of forest fires in collaboration with SOPFEU.

EEPF will continue to collaborate with the SQ as the lifting of checkpoints on June 9 approaches.

Cree School Board

The deadline for Secondary 4 and 5 students to submit their assignments has been extended to June 12. The deadline for all other grades is June 5. Please continue to encourage our students to submit their work.

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