

# COVID-19 Public Bulletin July 23, 2020

## **Testing and Screening**

The Cree Nation continues to remain COVID-19 free. Regular testing for COVID-19 in Eeyou Istchee is currently at:

- 679 regular tests have been administered
- 663 returned negative
- 6 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:

- 786 screening tests
- 774 returned negative
- 12 awaiting results

### Wearing of Masks

The Government of Quebec has ordered the wearing masks be mandatory in public indoor spaces as of Saturday, July 18th, 2020. It is important therefore for people travelling outside Cree communities to be sure that they can and do comply with the requirement.Wearingamaskhelpstoprotect you, but more importantly, those around you and people are always encouraged to do their part in keeping COVID-19 at bay. Community members are encouraged to verify local mask requirements.

#### **Travelling**

The Cree leadership continues to monitor the recent case that was confirmed in Region 8- Abitibi and the (2) two new cases that were identified this morning. More information is required to determine the relationship between the cases but there is growing concern that the region could begin representing a serious risk if these cases are not contained quickly. There is no reason to immediately change the status of Region 8 but it is important that people remember how quickly things can change and ensure that they are only travelling when they need to. Our communities continue to represent the least risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, the further we travel from our homes and our communities the greater the risk of contracting COVID-19. We must always practice physical distancing and precautionary measures to protect our fellow community members and it is even more important when we are travelling regardless the purpose.

Travelling to Areas of Risk will require selfisolation and these areas remain:

- Anywhere outside Region 18 Eeyou Istchee, Region 17 - Nunavik, Region 10
  Nord du Quebec or Region 8 - Abitibi
- Any mine site
- Any forestry camp
- Any Hydro-Quebec site



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### **Deconfinement Process**

Eeyou Istchee is currently in Phase 3 of deconfinement with the exception of church services which are permitted with a limit of 50 church members and appropriate physical distancing and other precautionary measures.

# People are encouraged to visit www.cngov.ca/COVID-directives.

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:

- eeyouistcheecovid19.org/
- <u>cngov.ca/covid-19/</u>
- creehealth.org
- eeyoueducation.ca
- quebec.ca/coronavirus
- canada.ca/coronavirus

#### Management of Work Sites

Protocols have been developed for work sites that acquire certified COVID-19 testing capacity to allow Cree workers returning from these sites to be exempt from the local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws. The exemption will depend on the implementation of proper site testing protocols and programs, access controls to the site, coordination with Public Health authorities and other COVID-19 Management Plan adaptations. The moment any work site meets the requirements public notice will be issued to the Cree Nation.