

Status of the Pandemic

The municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais have been struggling to contain recent outbreaks associated with travel and labour connections to Region 2: Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean. Despite valiant efforts and due in part to issues with testing equipment the outbreaks have not been brought under control and cases continue to climb. There are recent cases that would have been easily avoided had there been greater restrictions on social gatherings in the communities. **For this reason, the Government of Quebec will be declaring the municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais as “Red Zones”.**

The most important implications of this designation inside Chibougamau and Chapais is the **prohibition of all social gatherings, the closure of all bars and restaurants** (except for take-out) and **greater precautions in schools** (keeping children in separate bubbles and greater use of PPEs).

Businesses (grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, etc.) and government services (hospitals, clinics, airports, etc.) will remain open and thus far have not proven to be areas of high COVID-19 transmission.

It is important to note that the Cree Board of Health is working very closely with the medical services in Chibougamau to ensure that patients who go there for important services are safe. For example, **it continues to be safe for patients to receive hemodialysis treatment in Chibougamau.**

All of the communities of Eeyou Istchee rely on the services in Chibougamau and Chapais to varying degrees. For the communities of Mistissini and Ujé-Bougoumou, the situation is even more complex considering that key staff as well as staff of essential services work in one community and reside in another. Considering the close collaboration between the Public Health Authorities of Eeyou Istchee and Region 10, the close collaboration between the leadership of Mistissini, Ujé-Bougoumou and the Cree Nation Government, **it is not necessary that there be a complete shutdown for all communities at this time.**

At this time, inter-community travel is NOT restricted.

There will however need to be a change in the deconfinement plans for different communities depending on the proximity and the level of interaction between community members. Test results and contact tracing are demonstrating that cases could have been avoided had Chibougamau and Chapais reacted quicker in their confinement measures. For this reason, some communities of Eeyou Istchee will be changing the level they are in the confinement/deconfinement plan.



Status of the Pandemic Continued

Changes to deconfinement as of November 21, 2020

Mistissini (Phase 3)	Advising travellers to travel to avoid Chibougamau and Chapais except for (emergency services, essential services, education)
Oujé-Bougoumou (Phase 3)	Advising travellers to travel to avoid Chibougamau and Chapais except for (emergency services, essential services, education)
Waswanipi (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais
Nemaska (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais
Waskaganish (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais
Eastmain (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais
Wemindji (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais
Chisasibi (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais
Whapmagoostui (Phase 4)	Advising travelers to avoid municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais

It is important to note the differences between Phase 4 and Phase 3

Phase 4	Phase 3
Outdoor gathering 150	Outdoor gathering 75 or 10 households
Indoor gathering 50	Indoor gathering 25 or 3 household

The hope is that the Cree population will be vigilant so that these restrictions will be sufficient in keeping our communities COVID-19 free. **It takes the cooperation and collaboration of everyone to prevent the imposing of stricter measures or the complete lockdown of Chibougamau and Chapais.**

Our local public safety staff are working hard to keep our communities safe, they work 24/7 and will work through the holidays keeping us safe. For them and everyone who has lost a loved one or made an incredible sacrifice keeping COVID-19 out, **it is a profound insult when we lie to them or seek to break the rules and restrictions that have protected us.**



Travelling (Northern):

Because communities are different phases of confinement their risk tolerance will also be different, therefore: for the communities of **Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Waswanipi and Nemaska**, after evaluation of the **Areas Representing a Risk**, those individuals who have in the last 14 days travelled:

- anywhere outside Quebec, except for the Ontario regions of Porcupine and Timiskaming, which includes the municipalities of Timmins, Moosonee and North Bay;
- within Quebec to:
 - Region 1 – Lower St-Lawrence
 - Region 2 – Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean
 - Region 3 – Quebec Capital
 - Region 4 – Mauricie and Centre du Québec
 - Region 5 – Estrie
 - Region 6 – Montreal
 - Region 7 – Outaouais (Gatineau)
 - Region 9 – North Shore
 - Region 11 – Gaspé and Magdalen Islands
 - Region 12 – Chaudière-Appalaches
 - Region 13 – Laval
 - Region 14 – Lanaudière
 - Region 15 – Laurentians
 - Region 16 – Montérégie
 - **The Municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais, effective November 21st, 2020 12:01am**
- any Hydro-Quebec site;
- to any mine site, please note:
 - Workers coming from the Windfall Mining Exploration Site of Osisko Mining Inc with the appropriate documentation will NOT be required to self-isolate;
 - Workers coming from the Renard Mine Site of Stornoway, with the appropriate documentation will NOT be required to self-isolate;
 - Workers coming from the Éléonore Mine Site of Newmont, with the appropriate documentation will NOT be required to self-isolate;
- Any forestry camp

will be required to self-isolate for 14 days under the Local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws.

Therefore, people coming from Regions 8, 10 (**except Chibougamau and Chapais**), 17 and 18 in Quebec and the regions of Porcupine, Timiskaming and North Bay in Ontario DO NOT need to self-isolate under the local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws.



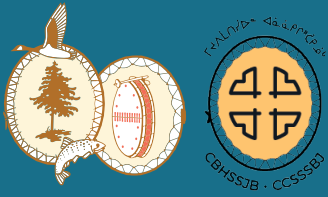
Travelling (Southern):

for the communities of **Mistissini, and Oujé-Bougoumou** after evaluation of the **Areas Representing a Risk**, those individuals who have in the last 14 days travelled:

- anywhere outside Quebec, except for the Ontario regions of Porcupine and Timiskaming, which includes the municipalities of Timmins, Moosonee and North Bay;
- within Quebec to:
 - Region 1 – Lower St-Lawrence
 - Region 2 – Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean
 - Region 3 – Quebec Capital
 - Region 4 – Mauricie and Centre du Québec
 - Region 5 – Estrie
 - Region 6 – Montreal
 - Region 7 – Outaouais (Gatineau)
 - Region 9 – North Shore
 - Region 11 – Gaspé and Magdalen Islands
 - Region 12 – Chaudière-Appalaches
 - Region 13 – Laval
 - Region 14 – Lanaudière
 - Region 15 – Laurentians
 - Region 16 – Montérégie
- any Hydro-Quebec site;
- to any mine site, please note:
 - Workers coming from the Windfall Mining Exploration Site of Osisko Mining Inc with the appropriate documentation will NOT be required to self-isolate;
 - Workers coming from the Renard Mine Site of Stornoway, with the appropriate documentation will NOT be required to self-isolate;
 - Workers coming from the Éléonore Mine Site of Newmont, with the appropriate documentation will NOT be required to self-isolate;
- Any forestry camp

will be required to self-isolate for 14 days under the Local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws.

Therefore, people coming from Regions 8, 10 (except Chibougamau and Chapais), 17 and 18 in Quebec and the regions of Porcupine, Timiskaming and North Bay in Ontario DO NOT need to self-isolate under the local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws.



Travel to Chibougamau and Chapais

For those that travel to Chibougamau and Chapais for emergency or essential reasons **it is recommended that regardless of the timing of the announcement that the travelers from communities treat Chibougamau and Chapais as though “red zone” restrictions apply now:** avoid restaurants (accept take-out or drive thru), bars, any gatherings, entering any home where you are not a resident.

Students residing in communities and attending schools in the municipalities of Chibougamau and Chapais are advised they are not prevented from traveling to school and that it is imperative that they follow the increased measures and restrictions which are there to keep them safe. Understandably it is a very stressful time for parents and students, the local leadership, the Cree leadership, the municipal authorities, school boards and both Public Health authorities are in constant contact and will also intervene to reduce the risks to all of our students, staff and community members.

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/
- cngov.ca/covid-19/
- creehealth.org
- eeyoueducation.ca
- quebec.ca/coronavirus
- canada.ca/coronavirus