

## **Message from Leadership**

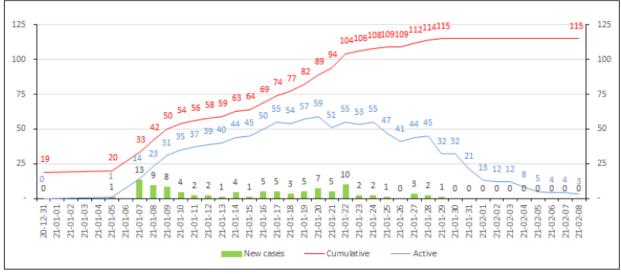
- In Eeyou Istchee we are suffering the cruelness of this virus which requires us to refrain from visiting each other's communities, holding community gatherings or even a simple visit by one person into another person's home. As we come to the end of the devastating outbreaks that we suffered at the beginning of January we need to be proud of the resilience of the Cree people in taking the necessary extreme measures and the incredible efforts of Cree Health Board Public Health team.
  - Analysis of the contact tracing data is providing us very valuable lessons. First, the early prohibition of inter community travel to and from a community once a case or cases are identified is very important. Also, even though something like a party is a definite recipe for starting a COVID-19 fire, it is the visits by individuals into private homes or people going for rides with a friend which ensured that COVID-19 continue to smolder and spread quickly from household to household and community to community.
- Like jurisdictions around the world, we are very tired in Eeyou Istchee and yet we
  are asked to hang on a little longer. The vaccination campaign in Eeyou Istchee
  including our neighbours here in the North and the eventual vaccination campaign in
  Quebec generally gives us hope that we will return to more normal lives eventually.
  One thing we know is that it will not be any one solution but continued efforts on all
  solutions by everyone.
- The solidarity and caring that the people of Eeyou Istchee showed one another to help put an end to the recent outbreaks was incredible, arriving at a check point, answering honestly and accepting the consequences if one is required to self-isolate is the greatest demonstration of love and sacrifice one can make for their people. It is hard and at times discouraging to self-isolate for 14 days but the pride you feel walking around your community on the 15<sup>th</sup> day seeing all the adults and children that you protected makes it worth it.



#### COVID-19 Summary, March 15th, 2020 to February 8th, 2021

Cases	Confirmed	Still active	Recovered	Deceased	Hospita- lized only	Medevac and hopitalized
PUI 2020	19	0	17	2	4*	2
PUI 2021	6	3	3	0	4*	0
January outbreak	90	0	89	1	2	0
Total	115	3	109	3	10*	2

#### **Evolution of the total number of positive COVID-19 cases Eeyou** Istchee, December 31, 2020 to February 8, 2021



## Travelling

We require 14 days without community transmission before we consider changing the status of a region. Although, neighboring regions are improving more time is required for things to become stable: ALL NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IS RESTRICTED AND SUBJECT TO THE 14 DAY MANDATORY SELF-

**ISOLATION.** (An exception is made for <u>Residents</u> of a community returning home or the transportation of children (under 18) to their parent, who should not be subject to the 14-day mandatory self-isolation).

Areas of Risk – Travel not advised, and travellers WILL BE subject to local Mandatory 14-Day Isolation Laws	Areas of Reduced Risk - Travellers will NOT be subject to local Mandatory 14- Day Isolation Laws	Special Note		
Anywhere outside Quebec, including Northern Ontario as of January 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021		Cases are coming down, but still too high to consider changing status for travel purposes.		
<ul> <li>within Quebec:</li> <li>Region 1 – Lower St-Lawrence</li> <li>Region 2 – Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean</li> <li>Region 3 – Quebec Capital</li> <li>Region 4 – Mauricie and Centre du Québec</li> <li>Region 5 – Estrie</li> <li>Region 6 – Montreal</li> <li>Region 7 – Outaouais (Gatineau)</li> <li>Region 8 – Abitibi as of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 11:59PM</li> <li>Region 9 – North Shore</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Within Quebec:</li> <li>Region 10 – Nord du Quebec</li> <li>Region 17 - Nunavik</li> <li>Region 18 – Cree Communities of Eeyou Istchee</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>These measures DO NOT apply inside our communities on Category I lands:</li> <li>Quebec has introduced new measures for Northern Quebec (orange) which apply as far South as Abitibi or Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean: <ul> <li>Curfew from 9:30pm to 5 a.m.</li> <li>Indoor or outdoor gatherings are prohibited</li> <li>Business can open with restrictions on the number of people (1 person per household)</li> <li>Restaurants are open for dining for a maximum of 2 adults per group and a registry of clients must be maintained (only residents of the region are allowed to enter a restaurant of that region)</li> <li>Bars closed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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<ul> <li>Region 11 – Gaspé and Magdalen Islands</li> <li>Region 12 – Chaudière-Appalaches</li> <li>Region 13 – Laval</li> <li>Region 14 – Lanaudière</li> <li>Region 15 – Laurentians Region 16 – Montérégie</li> </ul>		Southern areas of Quebec (Red) such as Gatineau, Laurentians, Montreal or the Quebec City regions remain with the severe restrictions we saw throughout Quebec in January, for example: Curfew 8pm to 5am Bars and Restaurants are closed Prohibition on all gatherings
Non-Essential Inter Community Travel	Essential Inter Community Travel, including <u>Residents</u> returning home or children traveling to a parent	
<ul> <li>Within Eeyou Istchee:</li> <li>any Hydro-Quebec site;</li> <li>any mine site</li> <li>any forestry camp</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Windfall Mining Exploration Site of Osisko Mining Inc;</li> <li>Renard Mine Site of Stornoway;</li> <li>Éléonore Mine Site of Newmont</li> </ul>	These three mining companies have testing protocols that allow workers to be exempt from local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws.

**CAUTION:** Travellers are always advised to call ahead and verify the entry restrictions or travel restrictions that may exist at their point of destination or regions that they are transitioning to as conditions can change quickly.



## **Eeyou Istchee Deconfinement Plan**

When it has been 14 days since the last case, a community can consider moving to another phase.

Mistissini has gone 10 days since the last positive case in the community and Oujé-Bougoumou has gone 11 days since the last positive case in the community.

#### PHASE 3

- Outdoor gatherings 75 or 10 households
- Indoor gathering 25 or 3 households (This limitation applies to indoor private gatherings and indoor public events, such as sporting events)
- There is no need to close offices in Eeyou Istchee so long as the proper precautionary measures are maintained.

#### PHASE 2

- Outdoor gatherings 2 households maximum.
- Indoor gathering same 2 households at all times.
- There is no need to close offices in Eeyou Istchee so long as the proper precautionary measures are maintained.

#### PHASE 1

- Prohibition on visits or gatherings indoor and outdoor. If someone is not a resident of a home, they should not be in that home. "Visits" includes, cook outs, car rides, etc.
- Public buildings are upon appointment only.
- Access to and from the community is restricted to essential services only.



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Community	Deconfinement Phase	Special Advisories
Chisasibi	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Eastmain	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Mistissini	Phase 1	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Nemaska	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Oujé-Bougoumou	Phase 1	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Waskaganish	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Waswanipi	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Wemindji	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.
Whapmagoostui	Phase 3	Travel to and from the community is heavily restricted. Non-community residents are not permitted to enter.



## **Vaccination Program**

The Cree Nation has achieved 70% of those eligible to be vaccinated and continued efforts are required to get as many people vaccinated as possible to assist in allowing the Cree Nation to return to a more normal life sooner.

Efforts continue to be made to find ways to ensure that members of the Cree Nation who are outside the communities can be given the choice to vaccinate as soon as possible.

### Total results of COVID-19 vaccination as of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Chisasibi	Eastmain	Mistissini	Nemaska	Ouje- Bougou- mou	Waska- ganish	Waswa- nipi	Wemindji	Whapma- goostui	Total
2,654	472	1,927	386	386	1,106	836	932	614	9,313



## **Education**

Through close collaboration with Public Health, in-class instruction for the elementary and secondary schools in Whapmagoostui and Oujé-Bougoumou were able to resume this week with Scenario B measures. Mistissini students continue to learn online.

This week, 300 laptops loans are being shipped to Waskaganish, Chisasibi, and Nemaska. Schools in Mistissini and Oujé-Bougoumou will also be receiving additional laptops to loan to Secondary 1, 2, and 3 students.

Local vocational training programs have resumed, however SRVTC programs continue to be on hold with efforts being made to resume classes safely soon.

Post-Secondary Student Services continues to support the current 395 PSSS students, with at least 265 of whom live in their place of study.



# **RELIABLE SOURCES**

People are advised to continue exercising caution on where they get their information in relation to COVID-19 and the vaccine. The reliable sources of information remain:

- <u>https://eeyouistcheecovid19.org/</u>
- www.cngov.ca/covid-19/
- <u>www.creehealth.org</u>

- www.eeyoueducation.ca
- <u>www.quebec.ca/coronavirus</u>
- <u>www.canada.ca/coronavirus</u>

#### **PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH LINE**

If you feel like you may need someone to talk to during these challenging times, please contact the Cree Health Board's **Psychosocial Health Line: 1-833-632-4357** where specialists with a traditional approach to healing are also accessible.

#### **COVID-19 VACCINE AND GENERAL INFO LINE**

Questions about the vaccine? The Cree Health Board has an info line with professionals to answer your **questions or concerns about vaccination**: **1-866-855-2811.**