

Message from Leadership

It is with a heavy heart that the Cree Nation stands with all First Nations and Inuit of Canada as we mourn the 215 children recently discovered in a mass grave of a residential school in Kamloops. The pain is real and makes it difficult to manage old wounds our own communities carry from the residential school experience. Prayers go to all of us who struggle to keep our spirits strong during these times when the pandemic makes it hard to seek or give each other the comfort we need. It was our love for one another that saw us through the darkest times, and it will be our love for one another that will guide us as we continue to uncover the truths of our brothers and sisters across the country.

Worldwide we continue to see countries struggle with COVID-19 doing what they can to avoid fourth waves and the emergence of new more contagious variants. Neighboring regions such as Region 8 - Abitibi continue to do exceptionally well as local businesses and public health authorities restrict access from high risk areas just as the Cree Nation has been doing since the beginning of the pandemic. Region 2 - Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean continues to fluctuate between good days and bad days although there is an overall trend downward.

In Quebec the situation continues to improve significantly, where just like in other Provinces Public Health authorities call for progressive and responsible deconfinement. Deconfinement is exceptionally difficult because populations are exhausted from restrictions and the temptation to give in to a false sense of comfort is very strong. The good news is that the vaccination campaign in Eeyou Istchee and the vaccination of children of 12 to 17 which is about to begin at least clearly demonstrates that the patience, resilience and commitment of the Cree Nation will all have been worth it. It is no longer a question of "if" but "when" the restrictions will fall, and we won't need to hesitate to visit each other in our communities.

Restrictions in the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee are still the most liberal in the province of Quebec, a testament to the strength of Cree leadership and determination of the Cree people.

June 1st, 2021

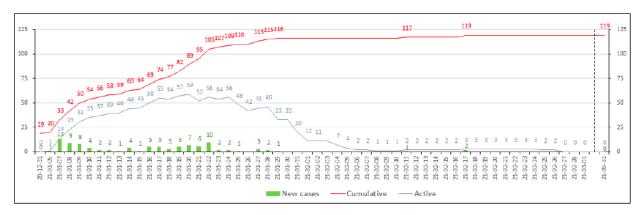
Recommended Isolation Periods

Vaccinated: Individuals who have received two	Seven (7) Days			
(2) doses of a Public Health approved vaccine				
Non-Vaccinated	Ten (10) Days			

The recommendations of the Public Health Department are based on scientific evidence and a thorough risk assessment. Should a community not wish to follow differentiated isolation periods local Governments must follow the most conservative recommendation for example ten (10) days for the current situation. Allowing unvaccinated individuals to isolate only seven (7) days, during this time where variants pose a risk and there is still a risk of an outbreak as we try and initiate the vaccination of children it is not advised and puts community members at an unreasonable risk.

June 1st, 2021

Evolution of the total number of positive COVID-19 cases Eeyou Istchee, December 31, 2020 to May 31, 2021



^{*:} No changes since Feb 27th, 2021.





C Annua Cree School Board

CREE NATION COVID-19 Bulletin

June 1st, 2021

Travelling

Areas of Risk – Travel not advised, and travellers WILL BE subject to local Mandatory Isolation Laws	Areas of Reduced Risk - Travellers will NOT be subject to local Mandatory Isolation Laws	Special Note
Anywhere outside Quebec		Ontario is restricting entry into the province to travel for essential purposes only.
within Quebec: 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	 Within Quebec: Region 8 - Abitibi Region 10 - Nord du Quebec Region 17 - Nunavik Region 18 - Cree Communities of Eeyou Istchee 	These measures DO NOT apply inside our communities on Category I lands: Quebec has introduced new measures for Northern Quebec (orange) which apply as far South as Abitibi or Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean: Indoor or outdoor gatherings are limited. Business can open with restrictions on the number of people. Restaurants are open for dining with limits on how many can sit at a table, some jurisdictions still only residents of the region to dine on the premises.





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Within Eeyou Istchee:

- any Hydro-Quebec site;
- any mine site
- any forestry camp
- Windfall Mining Exploration Site of Osisko Mining Inc;
- Renard Mine Site of Stornoway;
- Éléonore Mine Site of Newmont
- Wallbridge Mining Exploration Site of Fenelon

These four mining companies have testing protocols that allow workers to be exempt from local Mandatory Self-Isolation Laws.

CAUTION: Every community has their own procedure for applying for entry into the community and travellers are always advised to call ahead and verify the entry procedure or travel restrictions that may exist at their point of destination or regions that they are transitioning to as conditions can change quickly.





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Community	Deconfinement Phase	Special Advisories
Chisasibi	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 819-855-2878 ext.459, 328, or 307 and epc@chisasibi.ca
Eastmain	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 819-527-9910 and igilpin@eastmain.ca
Mistissini	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 418-770-9115 and jasonshecapio@mistissini.ca
Nemaska	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 819-527-7445 and directornps@nemaska.ca
Oujé-Bougoumou	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 418-770-7581 and hsharl@ouje.ca
Waskaganish	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 819-895-4053 and Reuben.blackned@waskaganish.ca
Waswanipi	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 819-527-9757 and johnnyawashish@cfnw.ca
Wemindji	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: 819-978-7724 and publicsafety@wemindji.ca
Whapmagoostui	Phase 4	Local restrictions and procedures for entry must be respected: publicsafety@whapmagoostuifn.ca

Eeyou Istchee Deconfinement Plan

PHASE 4

- Outdoor gatherings 150 maximum
- Indoor gatherings 50 maximum There are protocols available for larger organized indoor gatherings from the Public Health Department
- Offices and places of business are open with precautionary measures carefully maintained

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.



Vaccination Program in Eeyou Istchee

The Cree Nation has achieved 89% of the 1st dose (59% of total population) of those eligible to be vaccinated. The 2nd dose has been administered to 69% (46% of total population) of the eligible population. 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. Vaccination Rate:

Total results of COVID-19 vaccination as of May 31, 2021

Vaccination	Chisasibi	Eastmain	Mistissini	Nemaska	Ouje- Bougou- mou	Waska- ganish	Waswa- nipi	Wemindji	Whapma- goostui	Total
First dose	3,048	559	2,278	486	527	1,311	1,076	1,040	713	11,038
Second dose	2,384	460	1,652	387	368	960	791	943	554	8,499
Total	5,432	1,019	3,930	873	895	2,271	1,867	1,983	1,267	19,537

Thursday June 3rd, 2021 vaccination will begin in the schools of Eeyou Istchee for children aged 12 to 17.

Vaccination Outside Region 18

Service agreements have been secured with the regions of Outaouais, Estrie, Abitibi and Montreal for Cree beneficiaries and students outside of Region 18 to receive their vaccine as part of the Re-Entry Program.

For beneficiaries from other regions in Québec, please email the Cree Health Board for registering an appointment: 18TCR.ReentryVaccine@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

To Obtain Proof of Vaccination:

Download and fill the consent form available here:

https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/en/document-001089/ Along with the completed form, attach a copy of your ID and send to the following email: 18TCR.CovidVaccinationForms@ssss.gouv.qc.ca



VIA MONUTE Cree School Board

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The consent form is needed for confidentiality purposes. A valid ID is to ensure the Proof of Vaccination is sent to the right person. A valid email or postal address is required in order to receive your proof, it is not possible to obtain the proof of vaccination from your local CMC.

2nd Dose Outside Region 18

For those needing a second dose and are out of Region 18 - Eeyou Istchee for a long period: The target established by the MSSS of 112 days between 2 doses is coming soon for people vaccinated on our territory in January.

If you received your first dose of the Moderna vaccine in Eeyou Istchee in the past months and are unable to come back on the territory within that 112 days interval, please follow these steps to obtain an appointment in your region.

- 1. Have on hand your RAMQ and the date you received your first dose.
- 2. Call Services Quebec at 1-877-644-4545. (Do NOT go on Clic-Santé to book an appointment, the vaccination center will refuse to vaccinate you as it is reserved for first dose appointments).
- 3. Choose the following options once you have dialed-in:

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* - COVID-19 information
↓
2 - Modify or cancel a vaccination appointment ↓
2 - Appointment for a 2nd dose
↓
Follow the choices for your region of residence
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4. You will be connected to the 2nd Dose Vaccination Call Center. They will offer you an appointment in a vaccination center close to your home about 112 days after your 1st dose.

Note that most of the appointment centers will not know if the site will get Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. In this situation, it is recommended not to delay vaccination and receive the vaccine that is available at the site.

EDUCATION

- In-person instruction continues in all schools and adult education facilities. All schools are in Scenario B.
- Vaccinations for youth aged 12 to 17 will begin in some schools starting June 3. Schools have begun distributing parental consent forms (for 12-13-year-old students) and developing schedules in collaboration with Public Health.
- The Council of Commissioners has approved an extension of Post-Secondary Student allowances for July and August, 2021 as a COVID-19 measure.
- Plans for teacher travel at the end of the year are underway. Charters will be used as necessary and travel protocols will be followed.

For more information on this vaccination campaign, please refer to public health.



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:

- https://eevouistcheecovid19.org/
- www.cngov.ca/covid-19/
- www.creehealth.org

- www.eeyoueducation.ca
- www.quebec.ca/coronavirus
- www.canada.ca/coronavirus

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.**

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND VARIANT INFO

To learn more about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and for information on variants of COVID-19, please visit: https://www.creehealth.org/covid/prevention

