



Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
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Wemindji
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Eastmain
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Waskaganish
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Nemaska
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Waswanipi
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Ouje-Bougoumou
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Mistissini
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Washaw Sibi
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MoCreebec
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March 23, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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1. Situation in Eeyou Istchee

The situation in the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee remains unchanged. There are NO cases in the Cree communities. There continues to be investigations and monitoring. Students who were at the mining conference in Toronto continue to be monitored and show no signs of infection. There is still one case in Chibougamau which is under strict house isolation and is being managed limiting any threat to the rest of the community.

There are 4 cases being reported by the media in the Abitibi region but until they are confirmed by the Quebec health authority they cannot be relied upon. It is imperative that people be very cautious when receiving media reports, if they are not being issued by a Government authority or citing a Government Health authority they cannot be relied on. You are requested to please exercise extreme caution with what is being distributed on social media. Cree communities and Eeyou Istchee remain the safest place for you to be.

2. Social Distancing

Social distancing is critical at this time, the ability of Quebec to get the message out and implement the measures made an important difference. The growth in cases for Quebec is slower than most jurisdictions.

People must implement these measures:

- Wash hands often
- Keeping 2 meters from people when in the public in a social distancing effort
- Staying home if you any of the have symptoms (fever, coughing, sneezing or trouble breathing)
- Limiting all non-essential travel
- No gathering in groups

Enforcement is very important and everyone's responsibility. Successful implementation of these measures will protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

House parties and gatherings are not acceptable at this time and are very disrespectful to the vulnerable members of our communities.

The assistance of Local Youth Councils and other youth representatives is requested in helping communicate the importance of these measures.

With the assistance of the leadership in maintaining calm in the communities, the Cree Health Board is succeeding in maintaining services and protecting the communities. They need a calm environment to do their very important work. The Health Board will have new tools to get information to community members to announce in the coming days.

3. Cree School Board Update

The Cree School Board has confirmed that schools will be closed until the 1st of May. Childcare and afterschool programs will continue to be made available to the children of essential services personnel. This service is critical to providing emergency personnel with the childcare support services they may require allowing them to continue being our frontline workers. There are online forms to be completed to access these services:
www.eeyoueducation.ca/youth/parents/learning-supports

The Cree School Board also confirmed that no students will be negatively impacted by the closure, they have the authority and enough information to manage promotion from grade to grade and graduations. Teams are being put in place to ensure this. The Cree School Board will be communicating specific measures Tuesday, March 24th, 2020.

4. Screening Processes

The Cree leadership is also in contact with the developers on the territory verifying that companies have strict screening process to protect workers and community members. Some workers have been sent home as a precaution, but no case has been confirmed on any mine sites or Hydro-Quebec.

No case in any Cree Communities. It is imperative that social distancing be maintained. This is what will keep our communities safe and protect the Health Board's capacity to do their important work. Cooperation from all is necessary to help ensure the continued health of our communities.