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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

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 20, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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The leadership of Eeyou Istchee has implemented a communication tool so that the Cree Nation Government leadership, Chiefs of all communities, the leadership of the Cree Health Board, the Cree School Board can share information every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and we will be sharing these bulletins after every meeting at 2pm.

1. Reporting of Cases

Eeyou Istchee remains the safest place in Canada for community members to be. There are no confirmed cases in any of the Cree Communities, Val-d’Or or Amos.

There is one case in Chibougamau and contact with this person is being traced. The Health authorities in Chibougamau and the Cree Health Board are working closely together to ensure that tracing of any potential contact in Eeyou Istchee is identified and managed.

Anyone who was in prolonged close contact with this person will be contacted and asked to isolate and watch for symptoms. It needs to be understood that the individual in question is in strict home isolation and not in contact with the public.

2. Cree Board of Health

The Cree Health Board is maintaining regular services. Adaptations are made to operations to ensure minimum interruption of services.

It is imperative that people practice Social Distancing:

- Remaining six (6) feet from individuals
- Washing hands before and after touching individuals
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue, or sleeve

If everyone follows these practices, there is no reason you should get the virus.

Also, **traveling to neighboring communities for non-essential reasons and congregating in public areas is highly inadvisable at this time.**

Special measures are required for the most vulnerable, such as the elderly and those on hemodialysis:

- Contact with the public should be very limited;
- Visits should be limited to what is absolutely necessary;
- When visiting with an elder or one who is receiving hemodialysis you should behave **as if** you have the virus and be very vigilant with hand washing and contact pre-cautions.

Local and Regional organizations continue to implement “Adapted Administrative Best Practices” to maintain as much service as possible during these difficult times:

- Working by appointment only;
- Staggering shifts and staff;

3. Transportation

Community Points of Entry:

Information sites are being managed on access roads and at airports to ensure that people are properly informed of the protocols that need to be respected to protect the communities.

Air Transport:

AirCreebec is adopting the Goose Break schedule and implementing other measures, for example:

- Increased cleaning and disinfecting aircrafts;
- Removed all reading material
- Greater separations between passengers, no sitting beside each other

4. Food supply

Premier Legault convened a meeting with food suppliers in the province and there have been communications with food suppliers in the region like Ben Deshaies by Cree leadership; it has been confirmed that there is no risk of food shortage in Eeyou Istchee. People should not feel obligated that they need to stock up in the south or even binge shop at home.

The food supply in Eeyou Istchee is being very closely monitored by Cree leadership.

5. Goose Break

[Please see the attached Goose Break advisory.](#)

At this time, it is not advised to community members to go outside Eeyou Istchee for goose break, more particularly in the Ottawa Valley. Eeyou Istchee is the best place to be.

[Web Link](#)