March 27, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
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Wemindji
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Eastmain
ᐃᔅᒣᓐ

Waskaganish
ᐊᔅᑲᑊᐃᑲᓂᐤ

Nemaska
ᓂᒥᔅᑲᐧ

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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Communications

There is one case in Eeyou Istchee and there remains one Cree Patient in Montreal. 19 under investigation and 6 tests returned negative. We have, since the beginning of the epidemic, done 25 testes, 6 returned negative, and 19 are still pending.

Chief Jolly of Nemaska announced to his community that the confirmed case was in the community of Nemaska. The individual in question isolated themselves, as instructed, after having come from a trip outside Canada. The individual recently showed symptoms while in isolation and tested positive for COVID-19.

Leadership agreed that the individual should be commended for having followed the self-isolation protocol because they have done a lot to protect the health of their community. The Chief informed the other Chiefs that the person was in good health and receiving the appropriate care. The one person who tested positive in Nemaska has been separated, and their family has been isolated and is being monitored. Four tests have been administered for people who have been in contact with the person who tested positive.

It is confirmed that that there is 1 case in region, and 1 Cree case in Montreal. All contacts have been investigated and, isolated symptomatic individuals have been tested.

All people who have been potential contacts of the Montreal case who have returned to Eeyou Istchee have been investigated and all have found to have no symptoms and they remain in isolation for 14 days.

The Cree Board of Health continues to call upon coordination with Cree Nation and Local leadership to assist in making sure that operations are operating as efficiently as possible so that the services are there when needed.

Community members continue to be the most effective measure in preventing the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing and precautionary measures.

Cree School Board

The Cree School Board confirmed that there will be no changes to Goose Break for the schools in Eeyou Istchee. They also explained that they are extending the deadlines on post-secondary application due to the impacts of COVID-19.

CNYC

Cree Nation Youth Council is working on positive messages and actions that can be taken to alleviate fear on one hand and get the youth to respect social distancing and other precautionary measures on the other hand. Their intention is to work closely with Public Health for development of programs.

Eenou Eeyou Police Force

The EEPF do have authorities to intervene when there are gatherings that do not respect Government Decrees. Officers will work with local authorities to ensure that the local populations are properly informed before taking the maximum enforcement measures available.

The real focus at this time is to focus on community-based interventions. It was explained that names are being registered and repeat offenders or community members who refuse to cooperate could be facing serious consequences in the coming days. Police have been making varying interventions in different communities ranging from ending parties to preventing individuals making false claims about COVID-19 on social media that threaten the peace and wellbeing a community during these difficult times.

David Bergeron, Director of Police explained that like the Cree Health Board he needed the cooperation of the communities to maintain operations in the community at the highest level possible. He explained further that he has authorized the staff and implemented measures to ensure greater intervention to reduce parties in the communities. He was confident with the intervention of the Youth and the Health Board that there would be reduction in the people throwing house parties.

The Cree leadership is unanimous in asking the people of Eeyou Istchee to restrict their travel to what is necessary or essential and refrain from making visits in other communities. It was also agreed that traffic for essential goods and services must continue to protect the availability of goods, public security and health services.