April 1, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

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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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Washaw Sibi
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Public Statement

The most important message from the Cree leadership is how important "Social Distancing" is at this time.

- Stay at home
- Washing hands
- Remaining 2 meters from people
- Coughing sneezing into tissue or sleeve

These measures remain the most important tool for protecting the most vulnerable of our communities.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

There are three cases in Eeyou Istchee and only one Cree patient in Montreal. There is an important correction to be made which is that there are not 2 individuals but 1 Cree patient who has tested positive in Montreal.

Therefore, there is a total of 4 cases overall. All are isolated and receiving appropriate care.

The most recent positive test was in Chisasibi. The individual had isolated themselves as soon as they arrived in the community, therefore there is reason to be confident on the containment of this case.

The Cree Health Board continues to be proactive in testing with 78 tests have been carried out in Eeyou Istchee:

- As explained, 3 have tested positive
- 36 have returned negative
- results are pending for 39

The 39 people who are awaiting results were tested in the last 2 days and remain in isolation. The results are coming back quickly, ensuring that the Cree Nation has the most up to date information.

Eeyou Istchee continues to be in a much healthier position than other jurisdictions.

Although, Quebec numbers are higher than other provinces there is reason to be optimistic. First, the Quebec wave of cases was defined by families coming back from Spring Break. It is these returning travellers that accounts for the high number. Also, Quebec is also doing more testing than most jurisdictions. Even though Quebec has double the cases, hospitalization and deaths match other provinces which have lower case numbers overall; this means that Health services in Quebec are performing better than most jurisdictions and will be there for the people when needed.

The Quebec health system is able to keep the mortality rate to less than 1% at this time.

When we look at the epidemic curve, we are close to the peak in Quebec. With aggressive implementation of social distancing the numbers can be expected to start coming down in the coming week. We are now on the descending side of the curve in Canada.

Cree School Board

Adult Education is expecting to be able to contact students in the next few days to make sure they are doing Ok and plan for the future.

It is important that all students and parents/guardians check and monitor:
www.eeyoueducation.ca

Post-Sec has increased support, including financial support for students due to increased challenges during this time.

The goose breaks will be maintained in the communities, regardless of the target date from Governments on when schools are expected to open. The official calendar will be distributed next week following the Council of Commissioners meeting.

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Eeyou Eenou Police Force

The Eeyou Eenou Police Force has put in place the resources necessary for greater coordination with the different detachments with the implementation of 24-hour Regional coordination through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre.

The EEPF will continue working closely with Public Health to ensure that orders and restrictions are complied with protecting our communities to the greatest extent possible.

Cree Nation Youth Council

The Cree Nation Youth Council continues working on getting the message out about the importance of social distancing. They have initiated a “Stay at Home Challenge” inviting youth to contribute ideas and projects to help the youth through these challenging times.

Best Administrative Practices

The Government of Quebec has made a decree requesting a day of rest for businesses.

Cree leadership agree with the measure to allow owners and staff to rest and give a chance for the deep cleaning of facilities.

The leadership agreed to amend Administrative Best Practices Guidelines accordingly:

> To ensure that staff are not over worked, all businesses will have to close on Sundays with the exception of gas stations, convenience stores, pharmacies and take-out orders from restaurants.

This restriction would match the Quebec decree however some communities may apply stricter measures such as including gas stations in business that could be closed.

Finally, it is important that community members continue to be cautious about sources of information and disseminating unreliable information. Official Cree Government, Quebec Government and Federal Government sources continue to be the most reliable sources of information:

https://eeyouistcheecovid19.org/
www.cngov.ca/covid-19/
www.creehealth.org
https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/
https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html

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