



April 24, 2020

# Public Update on COVID-19

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## Public Statement

Goose Break protocols and guidelines will be important to respect as families prepare to leave for their camps. Preventing the spread of the virus while in the bush will be key to a healthy return to our communities after the spring goose harvest.



Cree School Board  
Commission scolaire crie

COVID-19 Management Plans continue to be developed and adapted for Eeyou Istchee as we slowly begin the careful and safe planning to resume certain activities under strict health directives.

## Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

It is important that everyone keeps in mind that if you maintain physical distancing, follow-precautionary measures of washing hands, coughing and sneezing into tissue or elbow you will remain safe from COVID-19. A mask can protect people from you but should not be relied as a preventive measure from catching COVID-19. Following these measures will help maintain the current status of COVID-19 in Eeyou Istchee.

Eeyou Istchee remains stable with only 5 cases overall. There are delays in declaring people recovered because the testing process is taking long but all Cree cases are doing very well. 17 days with no new confirmed cases.

- 243 tests have been administered, therefore approximately 2500 contact investigations (10 per test) requiring a 14-day, daily verification by staff.
- 223 tests returned negative.
- 15 awaiting results

Average waiting time for test results is now 0.8 days. It was explained that despite the alarming numbers in South, which are attributed to mostly CHSLD cases, the province remains relatively healthy, with a health care system that does have capacity to keep the mortality rate below 0.5%. Cree patients should therefore feel confident if they need to be sent to a southern healthcare facility. Our own elders' facilities in Mistissini and Chisasibi continue to be safe and our elderly well protected from transmission.

The Cree Health Board continues to work on ensuring that the staff have the necessary personal perspective equipment (PPE) to protect staff and patients.

## Cree School Board

After careful deliberation, the Cree School Board, in consultation with the Cree Nation Government and Cree Board of Health, has decided to suspend all in-class instruction for all CSB schools and adult learning centers for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

The Board decided in-class activities could not resume after Goose Break due to several potential public health risks, including complications posed by returning staff from outside the territory.

While CSB has taken the decision to suspend in-class instruction, the Board will continue to develop alternative tools and activities for students and ensure the wellbeing of all.

## Eeyou Eenou Police Force

The EEPF has been following physical distancing and practicing precautionary measures and therefore remaining healthy.

8 tickets were issued during the week for violation of precautionary measures amongst the other normal work of crime prevention and enforcement of local and other applicable laws. The EEPF is also communicating with the SQ to begin discussing and planning the deconfinement process.

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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