April 27, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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Public Statement

Goose break has begun as families started moving to their spring camps. It is very good to hear that some hunters have already harvested some fresh geese. Precautionary measures must continue to be practiced while at the camp. It is also important to remember that geese cannot transmit the virus.

Reopening the economy is being discussed and assessed across the country as well as the USA. Eeyou Istchee will be carefully assessing to ensure that we continue protecting our communities, our families, as well as the Cree Board of Health and Public Health services.

Thank you to all frontline workers and essential services who work hard to keep us safe. We must continue the fight to get over this pandemic.

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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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 COVID-19 to the current low levels in Eeyou Istchee.

There are two new cases in Eeyou Istchee, making the total 7 since the beginning of the pandemic. Two (2) are now recovered, so there are 5 active cases. The latest 2 cases are individuals who started feeling unwell after they landed or arrived in the community. A review of the pre-triage questionnaire will be carried out as neither had a temperature upon boarding or departing for Eeyou Istchee. It should be noted that due to the instructions that were given to these individuals while traveling home and the precautions that were taken there is little risk to community members and fellow passengers.

- 248 tests have been administered, therefore approximately 2,500 contact investigations (10 per test) requiring a 14-day, daily verification by staff.
- 238 tests returned negative.
- 3 awaiting results

In Quebec, generally 80% of cases and deaths come from long term health care centres. The mortality for the province remains below 0.5% even for those that go to hospital which should reassure people that hospital care in Montreal remains reliable and safe.

Cree School Board

As in-class instruction has been suspended for the remainder of the school year, the CSB is focusing its efforts on supporting students through alternatives methods. Such as the home-based and online projects that are being offered to Secondary IV and V students to help them met their advancement or graduation requirements.

In addition, the CSB is preparing for the regular end of year activities, including the packing of classrooms and teachers' return to the south. The CSB continues to work with the Cree Health Board to ensure the safety of our communities at this time.

Community Update

Waswanipi

Waswanipi has developed and implemented an emergency measures plan. The community maintains a 24-hour check point which does not allow access to non-residents for non-essential purposes. The Chief was informed on Sunday, April 26, at 8pm that there was a case associated with travel. Contact tracing is in the process of being carried out. The results are being awaited and should come in soon. The case is being closely monitored.