



April 6, 2020

# Public Update on COVID-19

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## Public Statement

The Cree leadership considered the recent announcement from the Premier of Quebec that non-essential businesses would remain closed until May 4th, 2020. It was agreed that the measure will help keep community members safe.

The Grand Chief reminded everyone of the importance of social distancing and precautionary measures, which people need to respect and not to get discouraged even though leaders across Canada are bracing for more bad news before things get better. It is imperative that everyone knows that things will get better, especially if every single person does what they can:

- Respecting non-essential travel restrictions
- Practicing social distancing: remaining 2 meters from people
- Washing hands regularly
- Coughing or sneezing into tissue or sleeve.

These simple practices will save lives.

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

The Cree Board of Health confirms that another individual has recently tested positive for a total of four (4) individuals in Eeyou Istchee.

The recent case involved a youth that had travelled to Montreal from Chisasibi for a medical appointment. Tracing and testing have been completed by the Health Board and the individual has been isolated. The person who acted as the chaperon for the individual has tested negative reinforcing the containment of the case. The young person who already had underlying health issues has been transferred by air ambulance from Chisasibi to Montreal where they are being isolated and receiving special care.

- 127 tests have been carried out
- 88 tests have returned negative
- 35 awaiting for results, these individuals are required to self-isolate while they await results.

Turnaround is greatly improved with results being delivered in less than 36 hours. The Cree Board of Health has been implementing the Emergency Preparedness plan and remains confident they are able to manage the current pandemic. The Cree Board of Health has also taken special care to adapt all their air travel to ensure that the staff coming North do not represent a risk by properly screening them and adapting the airport facilities to ensure that there is no public traffic.

## Cree School Board

The Cree School Board would like to remind parents and students to go to [www.eeyoueducation.ca/youth/students/olp](http://www.eeyoueducation.ca/youth/students/olp) as many supplementary resources now available for online learning for elementary and I-IV secondary students. The secondary V Online Learning Platform will be launched this week to help students to graduate on time.

The Cree School Board is working hard on plans for the reopening of schools and the return staff. Special measures are being implemented to ensure everyone's safety when introducing all staff back into the communities.

## Eeyou Eenu Police Force

The Eeyou Eenu Police Force continue to implement the social distancing requirements having issued 88 tickets over the last few days. The Police warned that repeat offenders or those who refuse to comply with restrictions on social gathering and distancing will be facing criminal prosecutions.

It is important people realize the social distancing requirements are not about punishing them but represent an important contribution by every individual to save as many lives as possible during this pandemic.

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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