May 1, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

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Public Statement

Happy Goose Break to everyone!

The leadership continues to monitor Quebec's announcements to reopen certain activity sectors in the province. The Cree Nation will continue to use caution and adapted measures appropriate for maintaining the health and safety of our communities.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

It has been challenging managing the physical distancing and precautionary measures especially during emotionally challenging times such as funerals which is a very important event in Cree culture. Special protocols have been distributed to those local representatives such as Public Safety Officers that provide the incredible support to families and leadership coordinating and managing logistics when it comes to funerals in our communities. The people who assume the responsibility for coordinating and assisting grieving families will need the support of leadership in ensuring the measures to protect the public are respected. It continues to be challenging times, but so long as we continue to fight and sacrifice for one another to protect the capacity of local health care systems and most importantly show patience for each other during these difficult times the Cree Nation will get through this pandemic stronger and even more resilient.

Eeyou Istchee remains stable with only 8 cases and there are only 7 that are in region: 2 have officially recovered, while the other 5 continue to be monitored and are considered active.

- 281 tests have been carried out
- 250 have tested negative
- 23 are awaiting test results

The Cree Health Board continues building its capacity to meet possible demands to respond to new cases or an increase in cases. The Cree Health Board is also monitoring neighboring jurisdictions very closely as a way of anticipating and preparing for what might be expected in our jurisdiction. The Cree Health Board is working hard to ensure capacity is there during goose break and hopes that the Cree Nation enjoys a successful harvest while respecting physical distancing and precautionary measures.

Cree School Board

In collaboration with the Cree Nation Government, the Cree School Board is modifying its capital plan for the upcoming construction season to comply with expected restrictions regarding construction.

The CSB continues to expand and implement online resources and is working to ensure the necessary devices are available for students.

Currently, end-year activities are being carried out in the schools and centres so that teachers who are leaving the communities will not have to return, keeping in line with the travel restrictions.

Students, especially those in secondary 4 and 5, are strongly advised to maintain contact with their Principals, through email at:
secondary4@cscree.qc.ca and secondary5@cscree.qc.ca.

An open line of communication will help students keep up to date with all the important information they need, such as their current academic standing and measures available to assist them.

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Eeyou Eenou Police Force

Goose breaks were authorized but few officers have chosen to take goose break preferring to remain on duty during these challenging times.

The Eeyou Eenou Police Force will be active on social platforms to continue to advertise the importance of respecting COVID-19 Precautionary measures. The community is also encouraged, as they would even during normal times, to use Crime Stoppers to assist in reporting local crimes.

Management of Access to the North

The Cree leadership has met with Mayors from the southern municipalities to discuss the Government announcement of the opening of regions. All leaders, Cree and Jamesian, feel that it is a little too soon for the opening of the region and that the most appropriate action would be to develop a concrete plan for the opening of the region in close collaboration with both Directors of Public Health involved. This will be challenging because citizens in the region will find it hard seeing neighboring regions gaining greater freedoms. A public statement will be issued to explain the strategy and the importance of protecting local health care capacity.

Goose Break – Cree Nation COVID-19 Briefings

The next Cree Nation COVID-19 Briefing will be on May 5th, 2020 and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays until May 14th, 2020.

Reliable Sources

People are advised to continue exercising caution on where they get their information in relation to COVID-19 and to keep in mind that the reliable sources of information remain:

https://eeyouistcheecovid19.org/
www.cngov.ca/covid-19/
www.creehealth.org
www.eeyoueducation.ca
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.htm