



May 14, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

კირალო-და დ ბურჯა-და



Public Statement

The Cree leadership continues to work with the Jamesians on how to address the travel restriction to and from our region. The two populations are approaching deconfinement and travel restrictions differently which explains the challenge.



Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crié

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Chisasibi
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

As the issue of travel restrictions changing becomes more important the Cree Board of Health is keeping a closer eye on what is happening in neighbouring jurisdictions. For example, the Lac St-Jean area and Abitibi had outbreaks of COVID-19 in the past and would appear that things may have calmed down but representatives of all Public Health Departments will have a discussion to compare each other's status. Currently, the only region judged to have the status as our region, as having only sporadic cases is Region 10 – Nord du Quebec, which includes the municipalities of Matagami, Lebel-Sur-Quevillon, Chapais and Chibougamau. Montreal remains of greatest concern, it is unclear if they have attained their peak of transmission.

In regard to testing, the Cree Board of Health is expanding their criteria making it more readily available. Before it was only people with symptoms and close contacts, but now more categories of people that can be tested will be identified, i.e. patients, students returning from the South, healthcare workers, etc. It is important to understand that more testing does not mean we are at greater risk, but rather we are taking greater precautions.

Eeyou Istchee remains stable at 10 cases from the beginning of the pandemic with 4 active cases as of today. 6 have now officially recovered. It is clear that the hard work of the leadership and community members is working, explaining why Eeyou Istchee is in a very different situation than Montreal and Laval which are still seeing an alarming number of cases.

- 355 tests have been administered
- 332 returned negative
- 13 awaiting results

Cree Board of Health is working hard to maintain its staff in the communities, and they are looking for ways to make it easier for staff to commit to working in the communities for longer periods such as accommodating the accompaniment by family members while maintaining isolation and other precautionary measures.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 does not only affect patients and staff but also the capital plans of the Cree Board of Health which is seeing the delaying of the construction of elderly care facilities that had been planned.

