

# June 11, 2020

# **Public Update on COVID-19**

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

The Cree Health Board is very grateful to the local leadership that continue promote the message that even as we begin to deconfine, it is still important to be cautious and to ensure that travel is only undertaken when necessary and avoid bringing children as the safest place remains in our communities and in Eeyou Istchee.

There are still no new cases in Eeyou Istchee, we are very stable in our region. It has been more than 2 incubation periods since there was a case in Eeyou Istchee. We remain with a total of 10 cases where all have recovered, and it is safe to continue Phase 1 of deconfinement.

Regular testing for COVID-19 in Eeyou Istchee is currently at:

- 484 regular tests have been administered
- 463 returned negative
- 11 waiting for results

The Cree Health Board is doing more screening tests focusing on Health Workers, patients returning home and other high-risk groups such as elder's home workers. The current Screening results are:

- 311 screening tests
- 54 awaiting results
- · 257 returned negative

Neighboring regions remain stable. There were 4 new cases in Region 2 Saguenay-Las-St-Jean in the last two days, no new cases in Region 8 Abitibi or in Region 10 Nord-du-Quebec. Montreal, Lanaudiere, Laurentides and Monteregie continue to be still very active although there is a clear downward trend in cases.

Unfortunately, Ontario cases are climbing, catching up to where Quebec was. The US is experiencing flare ups due to accelerated deconfinement and protests.

Therefore, Self-Isolation as of June 9th, 2020 is not required when with travelling within Eeyou Istchee, Region 10, Region 8 and Region 2, there continues to be the exception for worksites that receive workers from Montreal. It is important to understand that this is not a retroactive recommendation. If someone is completing a Mandatory Self-Isolation for having been to these areas before they were considered safe, they must complete their self-isolation as prescribed.

Therefore, for now, the **Areas Representing a Risk** are:

- Anywhere outside Eeyou Istchee, Nunavik, Region 10, Region 8 and Region 2
- Any mine site
- Any forestry camp
- Any Hydro-Quebec site



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Travelling to these Areas of Risk will require self-isolation. Travelling within Eeyou Istchee is safe but people are reminded that although you may not have to selfisolate when coming from another community you should not be planning visits or activities in communities that are not permitted under Phase 1 of the Cree Nation Deconfinement Plan, for example, you may be able to travel to a neighboring Cree community but it is not recommended to gather or visit indoors, people must remain 2 metres from one another. It is also important to keep in mind that communities may have more restrictive rules than your own community.

It is extremely important to practice physical distancing and precautionary measures. Everyone must do what they can to protect fellow community members. Please also note that your community may have a more narrowly defined area where it is considered safe to travel and it is very important to remain informed of your local self-isolation requirements.

People are encouraged to visit www.cngov.ca/COVID-directives. On this site people can consult Directives as they become available explaining the different activities that are permissible with conditions and adaptations as the Cree Nation moves through different phases of the Deconfinement Plan.

#### **Cree School Board**

The CSB is working with the communities on how summer school can be carried out for those students who require it. Literacy-based activities are being developed for families to access during the summer.

Students are still encouraged to log onto www.eeyoueducation.ca/olp to access their assignments. The deadline to submit final assignments is tomorrow, Friday, June 12, 2020.

For assistance, please reach out to your school administration. Secondary 4 and 5 can email secondary4@cscree.qc.ca or secondary5@cscree.qc.ca

Work continues on the Post-Secondary Student Services Fall 2020 Plan for online learning of Post-Secondary students. Students will be contacted to confirm if they intend to study online or in the south for the Fall. CSB is evaluating how to support them.

The Teacher Training Program scheduled for the Fall will be maintained with adapted measures to help fulfill the local teacher shortage.

### **Eeyou Eenou Police Force**

Officers all healthy, the two that were on precautionary isolation were cleared and back on duty.

The management of gatherings will be challenging, as definitions change but the EEPF will do their best to continue implementing local by-laws.

Last week 32 tickets, none this week so far, concentrating on local Band By-Laws.



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## **Quebec Bill 61**

The Government of Quebec has tabled Bill 61 -An Act to restart Québec's economy and to mitigate the consequences of the public health emergency declared on 13 March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic



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- There are three projects listed for acceleration in Eeyou Istchee:
  - Construction of Miyupimaatisiiun Community Centre in Waskaganish;
  - Construction of Miyupimaatisiiun Community Centre in Oujé-Bougoumou;
  - Resurfacing the James Bay Highway;
- It is welcomed news that these projects are being identified by the government
  as Cree Nation Government and Cree Board of Health and Social Services
  representatives have been working hard with the Quebec Government
  representatives to ensure that all Cree social and health infrastructure
  projects don't suffer because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is a consensus
  now more than ever that health infrastructure is urgently required in Eeyou
  Istchee;
- Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement which contains the Constitutional guarantee that the environment, wildlife and Cree way of life are protected and given due consideration when evaluating the environmental and social impact of project throughout Eeyou Istchee is not and cannot be affected by this legislation.
- The environmental review process under Section 22 of the JBNQA which gives
  the Cree communities and the Cree people a unique and prominent role in
  environmental and social impact assessment is not and cannot be affected
  by this legislation.
- The legislation is not related to the Memorandum of Understanding (Grande Alliance) that was signed with the Government of Quebec for the development of a plan for infrastructure that was in line with Cree values, principles and expectations.

### **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