

June 2, 2020 **Public Update on COVID-19**

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Public Statement

As heartwarming as it is to see photos of Goose Break activities, it remains important to practice physical distancing and wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible.

We continue to monitor the post-Goose Break situation as well as the neighboring regions as they gradually begin their deconfinement.

Thank you to JBCCS for daily sharing of key messages on COVID-19 to community members.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Eeyou Istchee remains stable at 10 cases from the beginning of the pandemic and more importantly we now have 0 active cases. It has been exactly 1 month since the last confirmed case in Eeyou Istchee.

The evolution of COVID-19 in Quebec look good generally as there is the beginning of a downward trend which must be maintained for 14 days before the trend can be relied upon. Since the last report there has been 1 new case in Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean and 1 new case in Abitibi. These are good signs that these two regions are going down to having only sporadic cases. An in-depth analysis is being carried out at the end of the week where the "Risk" status of these regions will be reviewed.

A "Risk Assessment Committee" is being established to assist local Governments, Entities, Organizations and businesses in determining which activities and how they can safely proceed given the deconfinement plan. If anyone has questions on whether they or their planned activity fits in the current phase of the "Deconfinement Plan" they may contact the "Risk Assessment Committee" at: <u>18tcr.phcovidteam@ssss.gouv.qc.ca</u>

In regard to the "Deconfinement" Plan there will be a limit on social gatherings. In the first phase small private gatherings will be allowed such as gatherings between two households, this means that households should not receive guests beyond one other designated household and physical distance must still be maintained.

Cree Health Board specialized non-essential services are being examined to determine which can resume. The determination of which specialized services will depend on the ability to safely bring specialists and staff into the community. It is also advised that Band Council's can consider opening Departments which may have been closed.

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

447 regular tests have been administered

429 returned negative

8 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:

- 181 screening tests
- 27 awaiting results
- 154 negative

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Waskaganish ∙ḋʰbʰḋb♂∽ Nemaska considered safe to travel for non-essential reasons within Eeyou Istchee, between communities and within Region 10. Self-Isolation is not required with traveling within Eeyou Istchee Region, with the exception of specific work sites.

With regards to travel the Cree Health Board would like to remind people that it is

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

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

Traveling to these areas will require self-isolation.

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.

Eeyou Eenou Police Force

All officers of the EEPF remain healthy, implementing procedures and local restrictions, with the EEPF. However, two officers are on standby as they are being tested for COVID-19 following an intervention they had to make.

Since the last report 5 tickets have been issued in relation to infractions against COVID-19 precautionary measures and there was 1 party requiring intervention. Police Director Bergeron was very grateful to see how communities are taking the measures and working hard to assist in keeping COVID-19 out of the communities.

The Lieutenants of the EEPF are putting in place calendars of local activities to ensure an active presence of the EEPF in the communities.

The Director wanted to remind the Cree Nation that the EEPF is following strict protocols and screening to ensure that its officers, premises and equipment do not represent a risk to the communities.

Cree School Board

The Cree School Board is focusing on Secondary 4 and 5 students to ensure that they can successfully complete their year. Students and parents are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting school administration or by emailing: secondary4@cscree.qc.ca or secondary4@cscree.qc.ca or secondary5@cscree.qc.ca.

The deadline to submit final assignments has been extended to June 12, 2020. Please spread the word. There is still time for students to complete required assignments before the deadline. School work for Secondary 1-5 can be found at <u>www.eeyoueducation.ca/olp</u>.

The Cree School Board also continues to manage the transportation of teachers and staff while heeding the current travel restrictions and specifics of the deconfinement plan.