



Cree Nation Leadership COVID-19 Briefing Public Statement December 29, 2020

Message from Leadership

- Unfortunately, cases of COVID-19 continue to rise since the beginning of Christmas holidays. Fortunately, the strict control over the access to the communities of Eeyou Istchee has prevented COVID-19 from entering our communities.
- COVID-19 continues to rise in Quebec and neighboring regions but fortunately there is a significant decrease in traffic with the people of Eeyou Istchee staying home and with the restrictions on businesses other than essential businesses in other regions of Quebec there is little reason for community members to travel outside the community.
- The Cree Nation grieves and mourns with the Cree Nation of Nemaska who have recently lost Chief Matthew Wapachee to COVID-19. The family and community of Nemaska will need the prayers and support of everyone as they try and say goodbye during these very difficult times to a leader who served his people. Tragically, Chief Wapachee is the 5th Eenu who has lost their life to COVID-19 after contracting the virus outside of Eeyou Istchee.
- The best thing we can do to protect ourselves and our communities during these times is to stay close to home and stay close to our loved ones.

Travelling

[Notice: Any changes in the status of a region from a previous announcement will be in **red**.]

Travellers are to:

- Limit their travel to what is necessary, limit number of travellers when possible;
- Verify the rules and restrictions applicable at their destination;
- Travellers are advised to be extra careful;
- Be honest. Do not mislead personnel that manage local check points, you are taking risks with the vulnerable people of your community.



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Travelling

Areas of Risk – Travel not advised, and travellers WILL BE subject to local Mandatory 14 Day Isolation Laws

Anywhere outside Quebec

within Quebec:

- Region 1 – Lower St-Lawrence
- Region 2 – Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean
- Region 3 – Quebec Capital
- Region 4 – Mauricie and Centre du Québec
- Region 5 – Estrie
- Region 6 – Montreal
- Region 7 – Outaouais (Gatineau)
- Region 9 – North Shore
- Region 11 – Gaspé and Magdalen Islands
- Region 12 – Chaudière-Appalaches
- Region 13 – Laval
- Region 14 – Lanaudière
- Region 15 – Laurentians
- Region 16 – Montérégie

Chibougamau is an AREA of RISK as of 11:59 PM December 22nd, 2020 for: Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain and Waskaganish

Within Eeyou Istchee:

- any Hydro-Quebec site;
- any mine site
- any forestry camp

Areas of Reduced Risk -Travellers will NOT be subject to local Mandatory 14 Day Isolation Laws

Ontario regions of Sudbury, Porcupine and Timiskaming, which includes the municipalities of Sudbury, Timmins, Moosonee and North Bay

Within Quebec:

- Region 8 – Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Region 10 – Nord du Quebec
- Region 17 – Nunavik
- Region 18 – Cree Communities of Eeyou Istchee

Chibougamau is NOT an AREA of Risk for communities of Mistisini, Oujé-Bougoumou, Nemaska and Waswanipi only: However, **only travel for Essential Purposes** is allowed (Groceries, Banking, Garage, Pharmacy, Medical)

- Windfall Mining Exploration Site of Osisko Mining Inc;
- Renard Mine Site of Stornoway;
- Éléonore Mine Site of Newmont

Special Note

Cases continue to rise in Northern Ontario requiring travellers to exercise extreme caution. Travellers are advised to watch Government of Ontario announcements for ever stricter travel restrictions.

Region 2 – Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean continues to be an area representing an area of great risk in Quebec requiring self-isolation if visiting there.

Region 8 – Abitibi-Témiscamingue has had a number of new cases in recent days with contact tracing completed. **It is very important that people remain very vigilant if travelling to this region for essential purposes.**

Chibougamau has had cases which remain with unidentified sources. Contact tracing continues. **Non-essential visitors from Chibougamau will have to self-isolate for 14 days under the local mandatory isolation laws.**



Eeyou Istchee Deconfinement Plan

Currently communities are in Phase 3 of our deconfinement plan:

PHASE 3

- **Outdoor gathering 75 or 10 households**
- **Indoor gathering 25 or 3 households** (This limitation applies to indoor private gatherings and indoor public events, such as sporting events)

Community	Deconfinement Phase	Special Advisories
CHISASIBI	Phase 3	
EASTMAIN	Phase 3	
MISTISSINI	Phase 3	Advising community members to avoid travel to Chibougamau. Travel to Chibougamau is for emergency services, essential services and education purposes only.
NEMASKA	Phase 3	Advising community members to avoid travel to Chibougamau. Travel to Chibougamau is for emergency services, essential services and education purposes only.
OUJE-BOUGOUMOU	Phase 3	Advising community members to avoid travel to Chibougamau. Travel to Chibougamau is for emergency services, essential services and education purposes only.
WASKAGANISH	Phase 3	
WASWANIPI	Phase 3	Advising community members to avoid travel to Chibougamau. Travel to Chibougamau is for emergency services, essential services and education purposes only.
WEMINDJI	Phase 3	
WHAPMAGOOSTUI	Phase 3	



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:

- creehealth.org/covid-vaccine-faq
- eeyoueducation.ca
- cngov.ca/covid-19/
- quebec.ca/coronavirus
- creehealth.org
- canada.ca/coronavirus

Psychosocial Health

If you feel like you may need someone to talk to during these challenging times, please contact the Cree Health Board's **Psychosocial Health Line: 1-833-632-4357** where specialists with a traditional approach to healing are also accessible.

COVID-19 VACCINE AND GENERAL INFO LINE

Questions about the vaccine? The Cree Health Board has an info line with professionals to answer your questions or concerns about vaccination: 1-866-855-2811.