

Manitoba Childcare Facility Weekly Report - January 21, '22

151 responses were received between Tuesday, January 18-Thursday January 21. All but three responses were from licensed facilities. They represent 1916 staff and 8512 students. 15% are family homes.

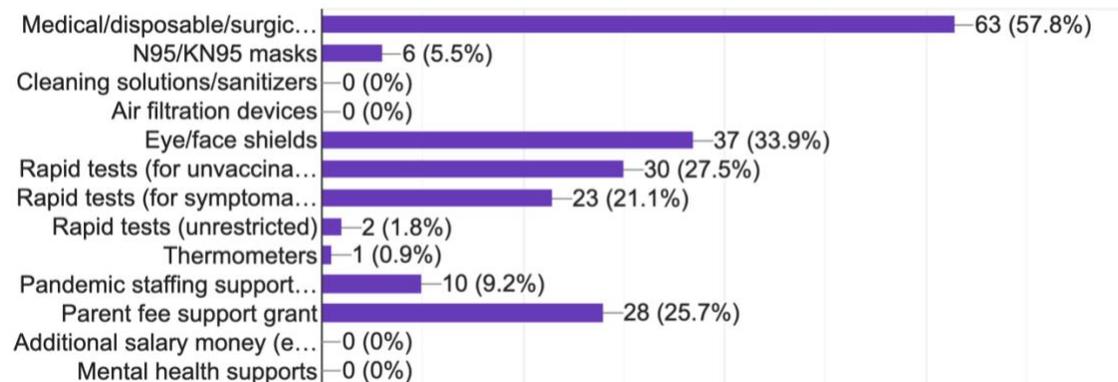
Current COVID cases & isolations:

	Staff	Children
Currently sick	195	392
Currently isolating	104	1110

Many facilities had to partially or completely close, involving 211 staff and 1044 children.

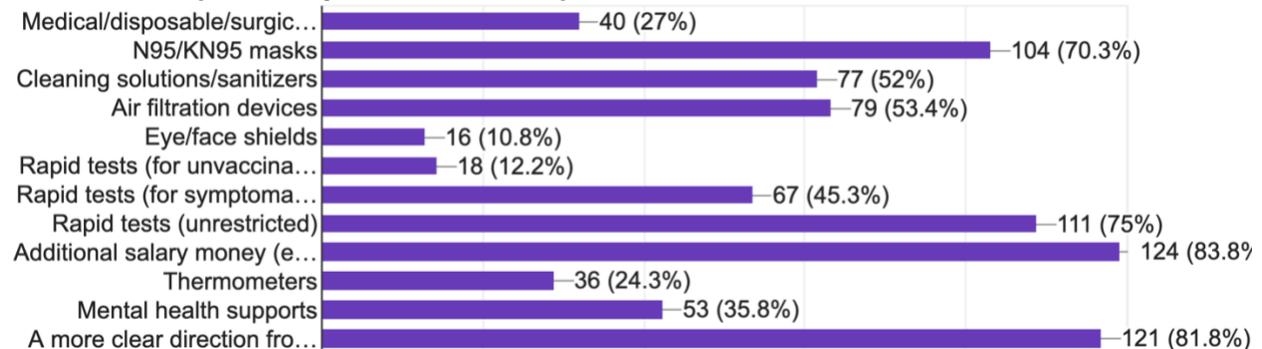
- Entire facility closed: 12
- Multiple cohorts closing/closed: 7
- One cohort closed/closing: 18

Very few resources have been provided to facilities in the past week:



* A number of facilities report that N95 masks were provided by NDP MLAs, not through provincial channels

Resources requested by facilities to keep staff and children safe:



Representative responses to open-ended questions that asked “please elaborate on what “other” resources you would like” and “Is there anything else you would like to tell us?”.

1) need for more funding:

“Not just additional salary for the mid-term, we need funding for additional salary increases permanently in order to retain our educators. We are losing qualified educators because they cannot afford to enroll their children in care with the minimal wages they make.”

“Would appreciate a salary enhancement for Front Line Essential Service workers AKA ECES”

“a grant to cover lost fees due to children isolating due to covid or being a close contact to anyone, not just from the centre”

“We need extra funding. If it were not for the federal wage support, this centre would be closed and we are heading into financial difficulty with enrollment being low. We have no say. It is so frustrating and discouraging.”

“Our staff are under paid but expected to show up when the rest of the world is shutting down. They deserve to be paid what they deserve. Our Centre for instance cannot pay past the 2017-2018 MCCA wage guidelines. Our operating grant and fees cannot cover us when we need to pay them on the 2020-2021 wage scale. We would be looking at a \$50,000.00 deficit each year to pay them on that scale and would have to run a tight ship in regards to letting staff go and working with minimum support staff.”

“We purchased our own air filtration device and would like reimbursement”

2) need for more direction and assistance from the government coordinator:

“A more clear direction from MELCC. We wait until Friday at 445pm to get direction that is effective the next week Monday. We don’t have time to plan for anything.”

“I would like my coordinator to be able to answer my questions about when I will receive more rapid tests so I can tell staff and Board”

“Coordinator was contacted regarding acquiring rapid tests for symptomatic home daycare providers as announced on January 11, 2022 but as of January 18th she still had no

information about where to acquire the rapid tests, who would qualify for them and how she would get the rapid tests to providers."

"we have notified elcc about not receiving our masks yet, and keep trying to reach mds to get our rapid test kits"

"Support from coordinator. Checking in regularly and guidance."

3) information that ELCC staff would like the families, the media and the public to know:

"I would also like for it to be shared with the media that while the Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit, and Parent Fee Grant are available, centres only qualify if they meet a very specific criteria. Our program was told that based on our audit for the year ending 2020, we do not qualify for the PSSB, even though it has been a full year since this audit is relevant, and our 2021 audit will not be ready until after the PSSB is no longer available. (It ends in March 2022, and we will not have our audited financials until early May 2022 for the 2021 fiscal year.). The media is telling families that these funds are available, but they are not telling families that they are only available if a specific criteria is met. Not all programs have access to these grants."

"our sector is drowning and parents are attacking staff, because they are tired, frustrated etc. but this is what needs to happen and missing work unfortunately is part. but being rude, threatening to go to media because we are trying to keep children safe- but don't like if we are stricter than some. Making sure all centre are screening children daily and sending children home when sick, not just relying on honorary system. Centres are dumping grounds for sick kids. We are people to , we have families. Not valued at all."

"The way in which our sector has been treated by our government has been despicable. Completely disrespected. The wages that we are forced to pay are disgusting and are resulting in an extreme hiring crisis. It is utterly shameful when the person serving you a coffee in a drive thru is making more than almost all child care assistants. Our government does not treat our sector as critical or essential, they treat us as worthless and replaceable."

We will reopen the survey next week from Tuesday-Thursday. We deeply appreciate facilities that took the time to fill it out and hope they will do so again next week. Our surveys are open to **all** facilities: home and centre-based, licensed and not.

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