

Manitoba Childcare Facility Weekly Report - January 28, '22

61 responses were received between Tuesday, January 25-Thursday January 28. All but five responses were from licensed facilities. They represent 821 staff and 4060 students. 20% are family homes.

Current COVID cases & isolations:

	Staff	Children
Currently sick	65	164
Currently isolating*	94	365

**isolating because of close contact or while waiting for a test result*

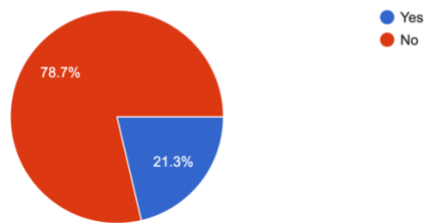
Many facilities had to partially or completely close, involving 211 staff and 1044 children.

- Entire facility closed: 7 (10%)
- Multiple cohorts closing/closed: 1
- One cohort closed/closing: 10

In addition to closures, many facilities have had to reduce hours and ask staff to work overtime.

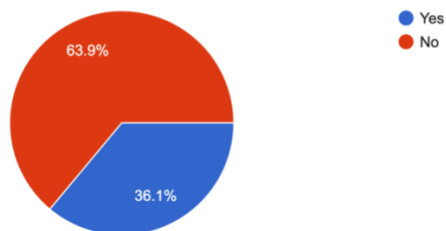
In the past week, did you have to reduce the number of hours on at least one day due to staffing shortages (i.e., unable to maintain ratio)?

61 responses



In the past week, have any staff in the facility had to work overtime in order to maintain ratio?

61 responses



New provincial guidelines released this week change the notification and isolation rules for close contact in the childcare setting. Facilities are no longer required to identify parents when their children have been close contact of known COVID-19+ individuals, and the isolation rules for staff and children close contacts are dropped. Only symptomatic individuals are required to stay home.

No additional resources have been provided.

Response to open-ended questions speak for themselves.

“Our sector is exhausted. I am not sure how we will come back from this. It’s pushing long time ECEs to leave the field.”

“I am so frustrated explaining to parents why are policy is what it is, even though the government says something different. My staff are burnt-out and I dont know how to help them, because so am I.”

“The sector is sinking! We need to continue providing quality care for Manitoba’s families without the threat of becoming private (all quality will be lost!) We need funds immediately to compensate staff for the important work they do. This will retain, and hopefully attract quality, trained staff.”

“On two different occasions (months apart) I have contacted my coordinator to help clarify the protocol for close contacts and both times I received an email back saying to reread my circulars and if I had any further questions contact public health. Pretty hard to do when you watching 5 preschoolers, answering parents texts, and the phone wait to public health is hours long. Is it too much to ask that our coordinators are up to date on the current information and can offer us some guidance?”

“I’ve worked in the field for just over a decade. I’m used to the govt, especially the PCs, mostly ignoring us. I’m used to funding issues, staffing issues, etc. But now it’s everything at once and we’ve just been abandoned by the govt. Parents are angry, staff are anxious and the govt ignores us to talk about truckers. The whole pandemic has been hard, but this is where we give up. Why keep fighting?”

“I feel that our government has dropped the ball in the way they have handled this pandemic but in particular, the way the childcare community has been repeatedly made to feel unappreciated and undervalued. Although we hear recommendations to improve the quality of our masks by the health care professionals, daycare providers are told what we have is sufficient. At the same time,

the province hands out N-95 masks at liquor stores by the handful. Running a home daycare means that I have no government assistance if I have to close my daycare due to Covid. The new regulations they have put into place offers me absolutely no protection at all. I have been operating this daycare for 25 years and never have I been so close to quitting as I am now."

"This sector is in a crises, hurting with little to no recognition, low wages, health and safety worry for themselves and family. Why are we working under these conditions yet the government is not allowed to be in offices and work places. How many people have left this sector under unsafe working conditions. How many are considering leaving. How many are talking about a walk out?"

"I am still frustrated we are being denied pandemic support funds for previous closures. Why should we have to dig into our savings to cover costs when that is why the fund was in place?"

"This is exhausting. I have been in the field for 30 years and have never been so done."

"I am so frustrated explaining to parents why are policy is what it is, even though the government says something different. My staff are burnt-out and I dont know how to help them, because so am I."

"We are all becoming burnt out and the power the government is giving parents is horrendous. They swear and yell at us daily now and want policies that have been in place for years, changed only to suit their child."

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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