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CUPE Health Care Health & Safety Survey – COVID-19

BACKGROUND

The straw poll was conducted between March 30th and April 5th. The survey was conducted on-line. Members were invited by CUPE to participate through email and member-only CUPE Facebook pages. The survey was open between Monday, March 30th and Sunday, April 5th. In total, 1,877 CUPE health care members participated in the survey.

CUPE intends to conduct further surveys of its membership to continue to gauge experiences during COVID-19 in order to help address the concerns of front-line health care support staff.

Respondents are CUPE members, and work in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), Shared Health, Northern Regional Health Authority, and Southern Health-Santé Sud.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees is Canada's largest union representing more than 700,000 members. In Manitoba, CUPE represents approximately 37,000 members working in health care facilities, personal care homes, home care, school divisions, municipal services, social services, child care centres, public utilities, libraries and family emergency services.

RESULTS

Information and Training from Employers about COVID-19

- 56% of health care support workers responding indicated they feel they have enough information on the Employer's COVID-19 plan to keep themselves, and patients safe.
- In home care, only 42% reported having enough information from Employers.
- 58% of health care support workers reported receiving regular updates from their Employer on their workplace's COVID-19 plan.
- In home care, only 43% reported receiving regular updates from their Employer about their workplace plan for COVID-19.
- 53% of health care support worker respondents reported receiving insufficient COVID-19 training to keep themselves and the people they care for safe.
- 68% of survey respondents from home care reported insufficient training.

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QUOTE

“Health care support staff clearly need more training and information from their Employers on how to deal with COVID-19,” said Shannon McAteer. “Health Authorities need to ensure staff are confident that they have the training they need to perform their work, especially in the context of a global pandemic.”

Personal Protective Equipment

- Only 41% of respondents indicated they feel they’ve been provided with enough personal protective equipment to keep themselves and the people they care for safe.
- The responses from home care workers are even starker, where 77% of respondents reported a lack of PPE.

QUOTE

“We understand the government is working to secure more PPE for staff, but if they are serious about flattening the curve, then they must get that PPE to the frontline workers who need it,” said McAteer. “Whether in home care, in personal care homes, or in acute facilities, our members need that PPE because their lives literally depend on it.”

Government Response

- 63% of health care support workers responding feel the government is not doing enough to keep health care workers safe.
- 51% of health care support workers responded they feel the government is doing enough to keep patients/residents/clients safe.

QUOTE

“It is clear to us that the government and health authorities need to be doing better to support the front-line staff who are struggling every day to protect our community,” said McAteer. “It worries us that the confidence levels so many health care support staff have for the government’s response to COVID-19 is so low.”

Stress Levels of Health Care Workers

- 65% of health care workers responding indicated they are suffering from stress, anxiety, depression, or insomnia due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

QUOTE

“Health care support workers are feeling incredibly anxious at work,” said McAteer. “They fear for themselves, and for the people they serve. The government needs to provide support for staff to help them focus on their work.”

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Do you feel you have been provided with enough information on your Employer's COVID-19 plan to keep you and the people you care for safe?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	1050	56%
No	801	43%
No answer	26	1%

2. Do you feel you have received regular updates from your Employer about what the plan is for your workplace to deal with COVID-19?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	1087	58%
No	760	40%
No answer	30	2%

3. Do you feel you have been provided with enough COVID-19 training to keep yourself and the people you care for safe?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	853	45%
No	986	53%
No answer	38	2%

4. Do you feel you have been provided with enough personal protective equipment (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) to keep yourself and the people you care for safe?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	762	41%
No	1082	58%
No answer	33	2%

5. Do you feel the government is doing enough to keep health care workers safe?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	633	34%
No	1182	63%
No answer	62	3%

6. Do you feel the government is doing enough to keep patients/residents/clients safe?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	959	51%
No	852	45%
No answer	66	4%

7. Are you suffering from stress, anxiety, depression, or insomnia due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

<i>Answer</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	1229	65%
No	612	34%
No answer	36	2%