



Kansas' most trusted child care resource.

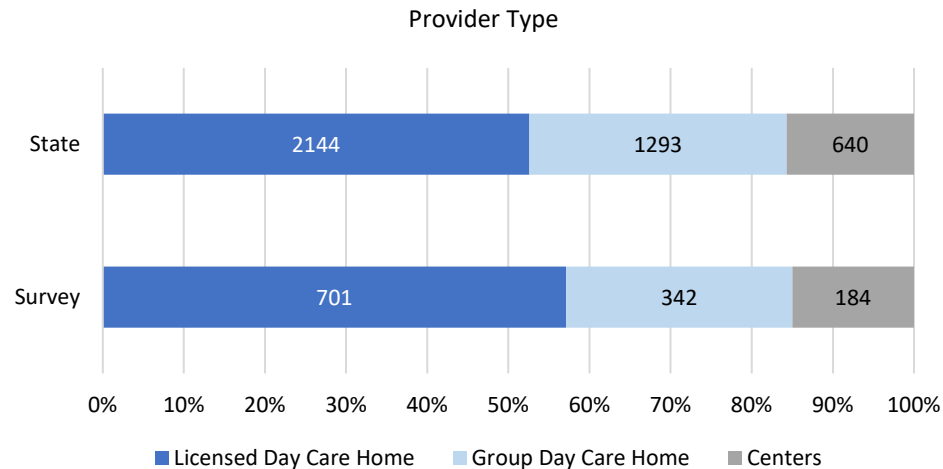


**Child Care Providers and COVID-19:
Prevention and Mitigation Practices**

Kelly Davydov and Emma Kelley

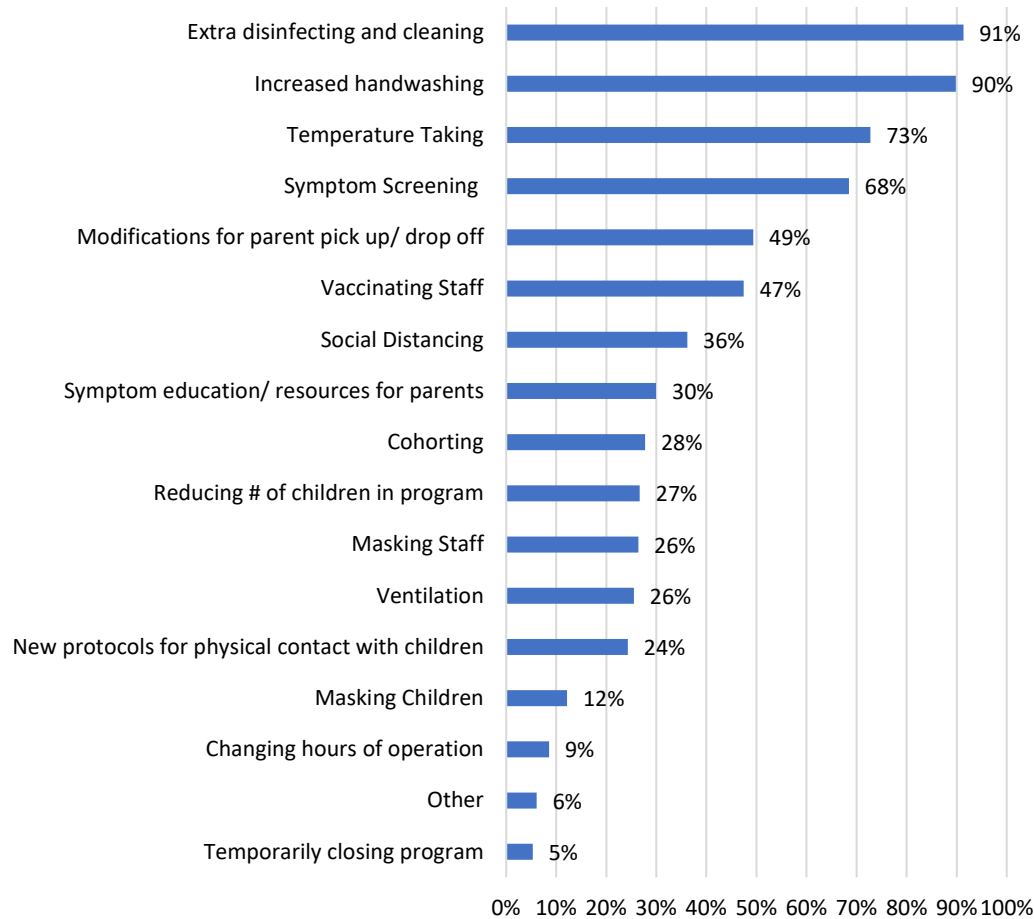
Response Rate and Demographics

- 1,258 providers responded (28.9% response rate)
- 102 of 105 counties represented
- 57.1% were licensed day care homes
- 27.9% were group day care homes
- 15% were centers



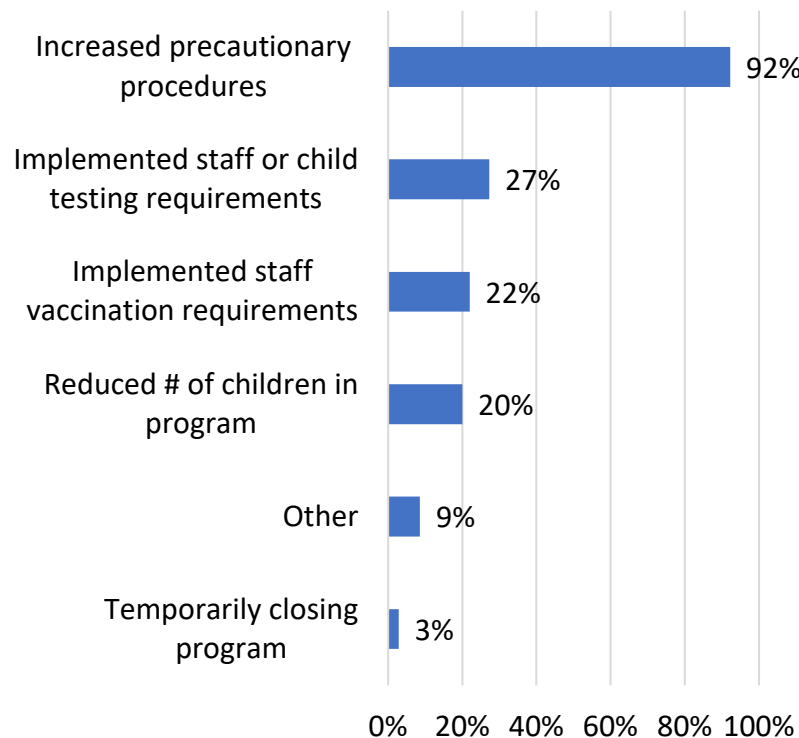
COVID-19 Precautions

Question 4 total responses: 1,210



- **98.6%** reported they are taking precautions
- Only 19 programs not taking precautions
- Proven public health measures were not as common
 - Masking of staff/children
 - Social distancing
 - Vaccinating staff

Response to Delta Variant

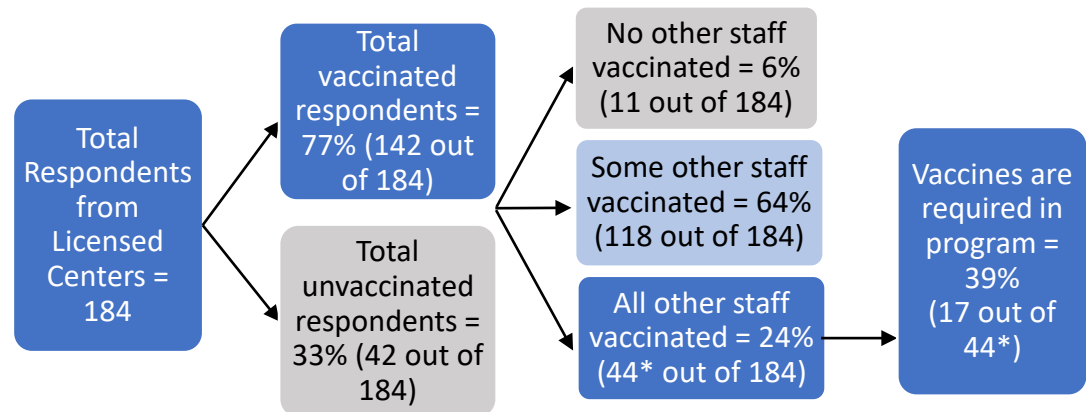


- The majority (**62.7%**) reported that the delta variant has **not** changed their approach
- Of the **37.9%** that did:
 - 92% increased precautionary procedures
 - 20% reduced the number of children in their program
 - Only 3% reported temporarily closing because of Delta

Vaccinations

- **77%** of center respondents were vaccinated
- **58%** of home respondents were vaccinated
- Centers: few (**6%**, 11 respondents) reported that no other staff were vaccinated
- Centers: Out of those that reported all staff being vaccinated (44 programs), only **39%** reported vaccines being required

Homes		
Total	Vaccinated	Require Vaccinations
1043	58% (602)	27% (279)



Vaccinations

- Why are respondents unvaccinated/ vaccines not required?
- Personal beliefs (64%, 511 respondents)
- 2% reported it was because of accessibility or transportation barriers
- 'Other' (41%, 323 respondents) reasons included
 - Believing staff should have the choice
 - Medical/ health related reasons; pregnancy
 - Not enough research/testing on vaccines
 - Not being concerned about effects of COVID-19
 - Higher administration (church, school district) not requiring
 - Previously having the virus

Vaccinations

County Settlement	% Preschool & Centers	% Family & Group Homes
Frontier	10%	87%
Rural	13%	82%
Densely Settled Rural	13%	82%
Semi Urban	15%	77%
Urban	21%	63%

Exposure and Testing

- 83% of programs quarantine exposed children
- 79% notify the local health department
- 74% quarantine exposed staff
- 54% test exposed staff
- 95% of centers and 94% of homes require staff to stay at home waiting for test results
- Only 4% require testing regularly as a precaution
- 35% of programs don't require testing at all

What would help providers implement more precautions?

- 70% reported that financial support or incentive would help
- 49% said support from parents and the community
- 43% said mandates or requirements from state
- 29% reported they would not make changes
 - Most common reason was feeling that they were already doing enough
 - Many providers reported experiencing **conflict with parents due to more strict policies** (i.e. masks, symptom screening, quarantining)

What would help providers implement more precautions?

“If mandates were put in place I feel it would be easier to have support from parents”

“Yes, we have already increased our precautions, but we would be able to do more if we had more funding to keep extra staff in place for even more extra cleaning. Also, it may help us with the push back we receive from parents when we try to implement increased precautions”

“I feel I'm doing all I can. And I don't want to get vaccine until there's been a long while of seeing what side affects come from it.”

Overall Impact of the Pandemic

Biggest Barriers

- Staffing
- Relationships with Families and Communities
- Financial Strain
- Stress and Burnout

“My hope is that now childcare is recognized as an essential part of the American economy, and there will be financial help in the near future.”

“Support and recognition that if we were not here daily for all parents, they would not be able to do their job. Teachers are daily hailed as hero's but childcare is just expected. I feel we have been kicked to the ground.”

What do providers need moving forward?

- Financial support
- Clear information
- Community support
- Higher pay for child care workers

“It's hard to hire new staff at a low wage”

“Community/parent support for new regulations.”

“Clear and decisive information that can be passed along to our parents”

Questions?

Kelly Davydov kellyd@ks.childcareaware.org

Emma Kelley emma.Kelley@ks.childcareaware.org

Sources

Child Care Aware of Kansas; United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, COVID-19 Survey, 2021

Child Care Aware of Kansas; WorkLife Systems, 2021

KIDS COUNT, Kansas Action for Children, Kansas KIDS COUNT 2020 fact sheet