

## Health PEI Health Care Workers Frequently Asked Questions

# Childcare

*Updated January 19, 2022*

**1. Q: My Child/dependent cannot attend school because they are closed. As a result, I have no childcare to attend work. What do I do?**

A: We recognize these closures present challenging circumstances to employees who have young children in school or daycare. We know we can count on you to do your best to balance your work and personal obligations and be present at work as much as possible.

- a) Please attempt to make alternate childcare arrangements.
- b) Emergency Child Care Assistance may be available through the provincial government. The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning is providing support for parents or guardians having difficulty finding childcare for school-age children (ages 5 to 12) due to school closures. Please complete the form located at [Child care support for children and families impacted by COVID-19 | Government of Prince Edward Island](#), as soon as possible, and someone from the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning staff will then reach out. Parents or guardians with questions can contact the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning directly at (902) 368-6518. In addition to the above, Island families are eligible to receive a Child Care Allowance. This allowance is \$125 per child aged 5 –12 years of age, per week, for the period of January 4 -31, 2022 to help with child care costs. Please review and apply at [Apply for the Child Care Allowance | Government of Prince Edward Island](#).
- c) If you are unable to make alternate childcare arrangements, talk to your manager about possible options to work from home or to modify your work hours (shift changes, schedule changes, evenings and nights instead of days, etc...).
- d) If you have exhausted all of the above, speak to your manager about requesting a leave of absence. The HCW can utilize their banks, ie. Vacation to cover this leave.

**2. Q: My child/dependent is symptomatic, required to be tested and is being sent home from school/daycare. Am I eligible for leave?**

A: If the child is symptomatic and unable to self-isolate alone (either due to age or ability) while awaiting test results, and no one other than the HCW can provide for the needs of the child, HCWs may access family illness leave as per their respective collective agreement until the test results are returned or such time as they are able to leave self-isolation as per CPHO. HCWs are expected to ensure they access testing for the child/dependent as soon as possible.

**3. Q: My child/dependent has been identified by CPHO as a close contact of an active case, is being sent home from school/daycare and is required to be tested. Am I eligible for leave?**

A: In circumstances where the child is asymptomatic but required to self-isolate and unable to self-isolate alone (either due to age or ability), the HCW can work with their manager to request a leave of absence. The HCW can utilize their banks, ie. Vacation to cover this leave.