COVID-19 Child Life Staffing and Programming Changes

Data Collection Window
May 4-11, 2020

Report Released
May 18, 2020

www.childlife.org
Changes since April 2020

Survey Participation
Survey participation decreased significantly to only 17.2% of CCLS vs 32.6% in April.

Reduced Hours
We saw an increase in the percentage of CCLSs reporting reduced hours.

Furloughs
We saw an increase in the percentage of CCLSs reporting they are furloughed.

Criteria to resume normal operations
The majority of program leaders reported that pediatric volumes (both inpatient and outpatient) need to return to usual levels prior to resuming normal operations.

Virtual Interventions
CCLSs continue to utilize virtual interventions, most commonly a CCLS in the hospital connecting to a patient in the hospital.
## Survey Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="People" /></td>
<td>5577</td>
<td>Number of Certified Child Life Specialists that were sent the survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="People" /></td>
<td>961</td>
<td>Number survey responses (complete &amp; partial responses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Map" /></td>
<td>774</td>
<td>Responses from CCLSs in the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Map" /></td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Responses from CCLSs in Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Globe" /></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Responses from CCLSs in other countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Why survey individual CCLSs rather than programs?
Staffing and programming changes are impacting child life specialists differently, even within the same program. In order to try to assess the full impact on the child life workforce, this survey was targeted at individual child life specialists with some additional questions reserved for child life program leaders.

### How can I use this data?
ACLP is providing this data as a resource to members and a snapshot of what is happening in the child life field at this point in time. This data should not be interpreted as recommendations of what child life programs should be doing to navigate COVID-19.
USA

Current Job Status (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Normal hours, shifts, assigned unit, or job duties - minor disruptions if any: 25.60%
- Normal hours but changes to shifts, assigned unit, or job duties: 8.71%
- Partial hospital-based work, partial work-from-home: 5.50%
- Reduced hours: 13.00%
- Furloughed: 26.01%
- Other: 21.18%

Job Disruptions (number of CCLS respondents)

- Disruption of internship programming: 359
- Disruption of practicum programming: 330
- Disruption of volunteer programming: 632
- Staffing child care for children of hospital employees: 43
- Restrictions on patient diagnoses or units served: 392
- Other: 128
Changes implemented as a result of COVID-19 (number of CCLS respondents)

- Limits on sibling visitation: 683
- Bans sibling visitation: 677
- Limits on parent/caregiver visitation: 611
- Limits on playroom usage: 470
- Playroom closure: 204
- Child life cannot enter COVID-19 rule out or COVID-19 positive rooms: 161
- Child life cannot enter isolation rooms: 127
- Limits on child life assistant/activity coordinator activities: 217
- Suspension of child life assistant/activity coordinator activities: 137
- Other: 66
Virtual Interventions (number of CCLS respondents)

- CCLS in hospital to patient in hospital: 237
- CCLS in hospital to patient at home: 55
- CCLS at home to patient in hospital: 42
- CCLS at home to patient at home: 30
- N/A: 359
- Other: 74

Job Role (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Clinical child life specialist: 62.72%
- Clinical child life specialist with some administrative duties: 21.13%
- Split clinical and administrative child life role: 8.34%
- Full time administrative/managerial role: 7.81%
USA continued

CCLS able to work from home (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Yes: 22.25%
- No: 77.75%

Work from Home Tasks (number of CCLS respondents)

- Virtual patient interactions
- Creating program resources (teaching materials, updating policies, etc)
- Professional development
- Updating student programming resources
- Updating volunteer programming resources
- Supervising hospital-based staff
- Supervising work-from-home staff
- Supervising child life students
- Other

- 22.25% (27 respondents)
- 77.75% (133 respondents)
- 22.25% (124 respondents)
- 26% (42 respondents)
- 39% (39 respondents)
- 29% (29 respondents)
- 7% (7 respondents)
- 33% (33 respondents)
USA Program Leaders

Staffing Level Reductions due to Furloughs (program leader respondents)

- **20%**
  - One quarter of child life programs experiencing furloughs have reduced their staffing to 20% or less of their usual level

- **50%**
  - Half of child life programs experiencing furloughs have reduced their staffing to 50% or less of their usual level

- **76.25%**
  - Three-quarters of child life programs experiencing furloughs have reduced their staffing to 76.25% or less of their usual level

If team members are working from home or furloughed, is there an expected return date? (percentage of program leader respondents)

- **42.86%**
  - 1-2 weeks

- **21.43%**
  - 2-4 weeks

- **21.43%**
  - 4-6 weeks

- **7.14%**
  - 6-8 weeks

- **7.14%**
  - 8+ weeks
USA Program Leaders

Criteria for child life team to resume normal operations
(number of program leader respondents)

- Number of COVID-19 cases in hospital fall below a designated threshold (50)
- Number of COVID-19 cases in region fall below a designated threshold (44)
- PPE stock is replenished (51)
- Pediatric census returns to expected level (11)
- Pediatric ambulatory surgery/outpatient radiology/clinic visits return to expected level (11)
- Unknown (60)
- Other (44)

Hospital Policy Changes (percentage of program leader respondents)

- Ability to go into negative PTO during COVID-19 (47)
- Separate COVID-19 PTO (32)
- % paycut for highly compensated employees (19)
- Other (31)
Canada

Current Job Status (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- 47.83% Normal hours, shifts, assigned unit, or job duties - minor disruptions if any
- 4.35% Normal hours but changes to shifts, assigned unit, or job duties
- 4.35% Partial hospital-based work, partial work-from-home
- 0.00% Reduced hours
- 17.39% Furloughed
- 26.09% Other

Job Disruptions (number of CCLS respondents)

- Disruption of internship programming: 17
- Disruption of practicum programming: 36
- Disruption of volunteer programming: 7
- Staffing child care for children of hospital employees: 0
- Restrictions on patient diagnoses or units served: 13
- Other: 7
Canada continued

Changes implemented as a result of COVID-19 (number of CCLS respondents)

- Limits on sibling visitation
- Bans sibling visitation
- Limits on parent/caregiver visitation
- Limits on playroom usage
- Playroom closure
- Child life cannot enter COVID-19 rule out or COVID-19 positive rooms
- Child life cannot enter isolation rooms
- Limits on child life assistant/activity coordinator activities
- Suspension of child life assistant/activity coordinator activities
- Other
Canada continued

Virtual Interventions (number of CCLS respondents)

CCLS in hospital to patient in hospital
CCLS in hospital to patient at home
CCLS at home to patient in hospital
CCLS at home to patient at home
N/A
Other

Job Role (percentage of CCLS respondents)

Clinical child life specialist
Clinical child life specialist with some administrative duties
Split clinical and administrative child life role
Full time administrative/managerial role
Canada continued

CCLS able to work from home (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Yes: 87.50%
- No: 12.50%

Work from Home Tasks (number of CCLS respondents)

- Virtual patient interactions: 4
- Creating program resources (teaching materials, updating policies, etc): 3
- Professional development: 4
- Supervising hospital-based staff: 1
- Supervising work-from-home staff: 1
- Supervising child life students: 0
- Other: 0
- Updating student programming resources: 0
- Updating volunteer programming resources: 0
Canada  Program Leaders

Criteria for child life team to resume normal operations
(number of program leader respondents)

- Number of COVID-19 cases in hospital fall below a designated threshold
- Number of COVID-19 cases in region fall below a designated threshold
- PPE stock is replenished
- Pediatric census returns to expected level
- Pediatric ambulatory surgery/outpatient radiology/clinic visits return to expected level
- Unknown
- Other
Other Countries

Current Job Status (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Normal hours, shifts, assigned unit, or job duties - minor disruptions if any: 58.82%
- Normal hours but changes to shifts, assigned unit, or job duties: 11.76%
- Partial hospital-based work, partial work-from-home: 11.76%
- Reduced hours: 0.00%
- Other: 17.65%

Job Disruptions (number of CCLS respondents)

- Disruption of internship programming: 9
- Disruption of practicum programming: 0
- Disruption of volunteer programming: 1
- Staffing child care for children of hospital employees: 0
- Restrictions on patient diagnoses or units served: 1
- Other: 6
Other Countries continued

Changes implemented as a result of COVID-19 (number of CCLS respondents)

- Limits on sibling visitation
- Bans sibling visitation
- Limits on parent/caregiver visitation
- Limits on playroom usage
- Playroom closure
- Child life cannot enter COVID-19 rule out or COVID-19 positive rooms
- Child life cannot enter isolation rooms
- Limits on child life assistant/activity coordinator activities
- Suspension of child life assistant/activity coordinator activities
- Other
Other Countries continued

Virtual Interventions (number of CCLS respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>CCLS in hospital to patient in hospital</th>
<th>CCLS in hospital to patient at home</th>
<th>CCLS at home to patient in hospital</th>
<th>CCLS at home to patient at home</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCLS in hospital to patient in hospital</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCLS in hospital to patient at home</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCLS at home to patient in hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCLS at home to patient at home</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Job Role (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Clinical child life specialist: 47.06%
- Clinical child life specialist with some administrative duties: 23.53%
- Split clinical and administrative child life role: 17.65%
- Full time administrative/managerial role: 11.76%
- Other: 4.52%
Other Countries continued

CCLS able to work from home (percentage of CCLS respondents)

- Yes: 29.41%
- No: 70.59%

Work from Home Tasks (number of CCLS respondents)

- Virtual patient interactions: 4 respondents
- Creating program resources (teaching materials, updating policies, etc): 4 respondents
- Professional development: 3 respondents
- Updating student programming resources: 1 respondent
- Updating volunteer programming resources: 1 respondent
- Supervising hospital-based staff: 1 respondent
- Supervising work-from-home staff: 0 respondents
- Supervising child life students: 0 respondents
- Other: 0 respondents
Other Countries  Program Leaders

Criteria for child life team to resume normal operations
(number of program leader respondents)

- Number of COVID-19 cases in hospital fall below a designated threshold
- Number of COVID-19 cases in region fall below a designated threshold
- PPE stock is replenished
- Pediatric census returns to expected level
- Pediatric ambulatory surgery/outpatient radiology/clinic visits return to expected level
- Unknown
- Other

The bar chart shows the number of program leaders who reported each criterion for child life team to resume normal operations.
ACLP will reissue this survey periodically to track trends in the child life field. Accuracy of this report is dependent on your participation - please retake it even if you have not experienced changes from the previous survey.

Questions? Email mroloff@childlife.org.

Note: In order to protect member privacy, ACLP will not release responses related to a specific hospital.