

Willowbrook reports fewer calling in sick

The "sickout" at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, continued yesterday for the fourth straight day, but at a much smaller rate than previously.

One out of nine Sunday day shift workers called in sick, as compared with one in seven Saturday night and nearly one in four Saturday evening.

Thirty-two of the required 284 day shift workers yesterday called in sick, apparently to protest what the Willowbrook center's union says is a serious staffing shortage. On the first day of the strike, Thursday, 111 workers called in sick, 92 on Friday and 64 Saturday evening.

Doris Henry, nurse administrator at the Willowbrook facility, said the worker shortage yesterday was "only a little less than usual for a weekend."

The state-run center is under a court order to virtually empty the facility by May 1981. But Felton King, president of Local 149 of the Civil Service Employees Association, has charged that employees have been transferred to other facilities at a higher rate than residents.

King Saturday called for the return of about 160 former employees who have been transferred.