

## Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Update

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Due to the recent surge in Omicron cases and changes in eligibility for testing, testing capacity is limited and case, contact, and outbreak management has been modified to focus on high-risk settings. As a result, case counts in the report are an underestimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 in Windsor-Essex County and may impact data completeness. Please interpret these data accordingly. Changes in testing criteria are marked by vertical line on the charts, and due to these changes, data from before December 31, 2021 should not be compared to data after the testing changes.

### Data Highlights (week of April 25 – May 1, 2022)

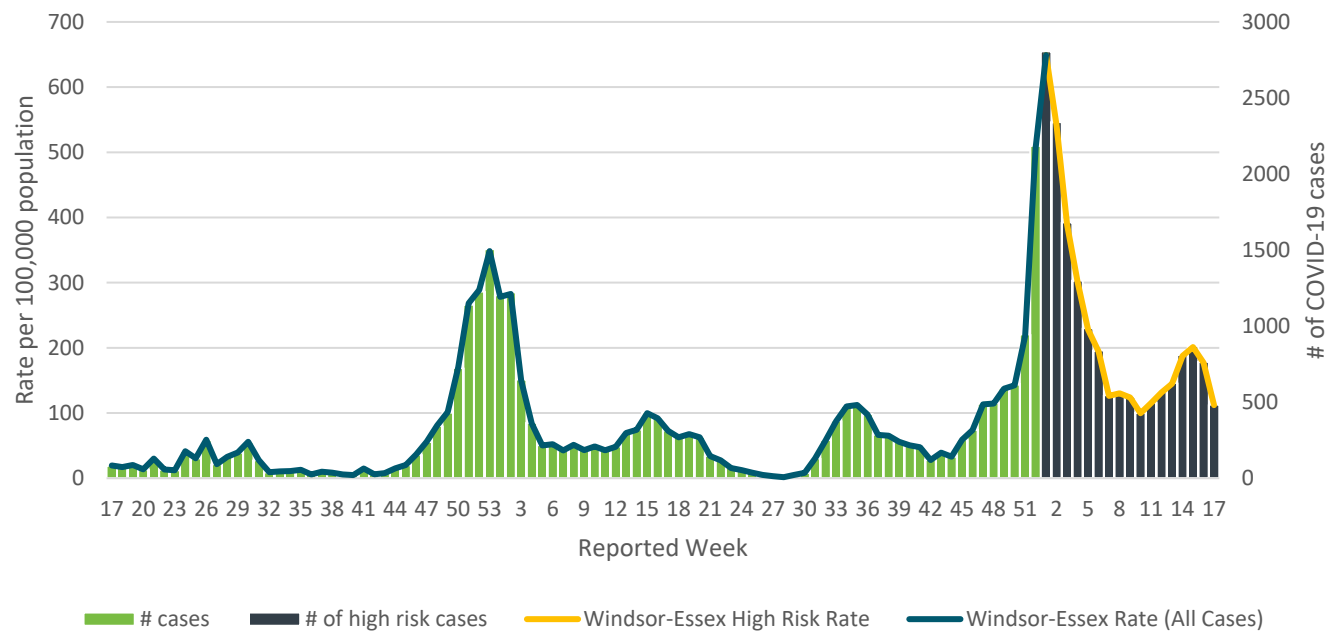
- The weekly high-risk case rate is 112.0 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 36.8% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity decreased by 6.9 percentage points from last week.
- The number of in-patient hospitalizations decreased for Windsor-Essex County but remained stable in Ontario.
  - ICU admissions remains low in Windsor-Essex County but continues to increase across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for April 25 – May 1, 2022 remained relatively stable from last week.
- Three deaths were reported this week (April 25 – May 1, 2022), compared to nine deaths reported during the previous week (April 18 - 24, 2022).
- Eleven outbreaks were declared during the current week (April 25 – May 1, 2022), compared to nine outbreaks declared during the previous week (April 18 - 24, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 51.6% for residents 12 years and older.
  - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.7%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (87.7%).

### COVID-19 Cases in Windsor-Essex County (WEC)

#### *Trends*

For the week of April 25 – May 1, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 112.0 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (April 18 - 24, 2022; 177.2 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a decline in case rate was observed until mid-March, followed by an increase afterwards, although a slight decline was observed for the most recent week. Estimates of the case rate are likely an underestimate due to limited testing capacity.

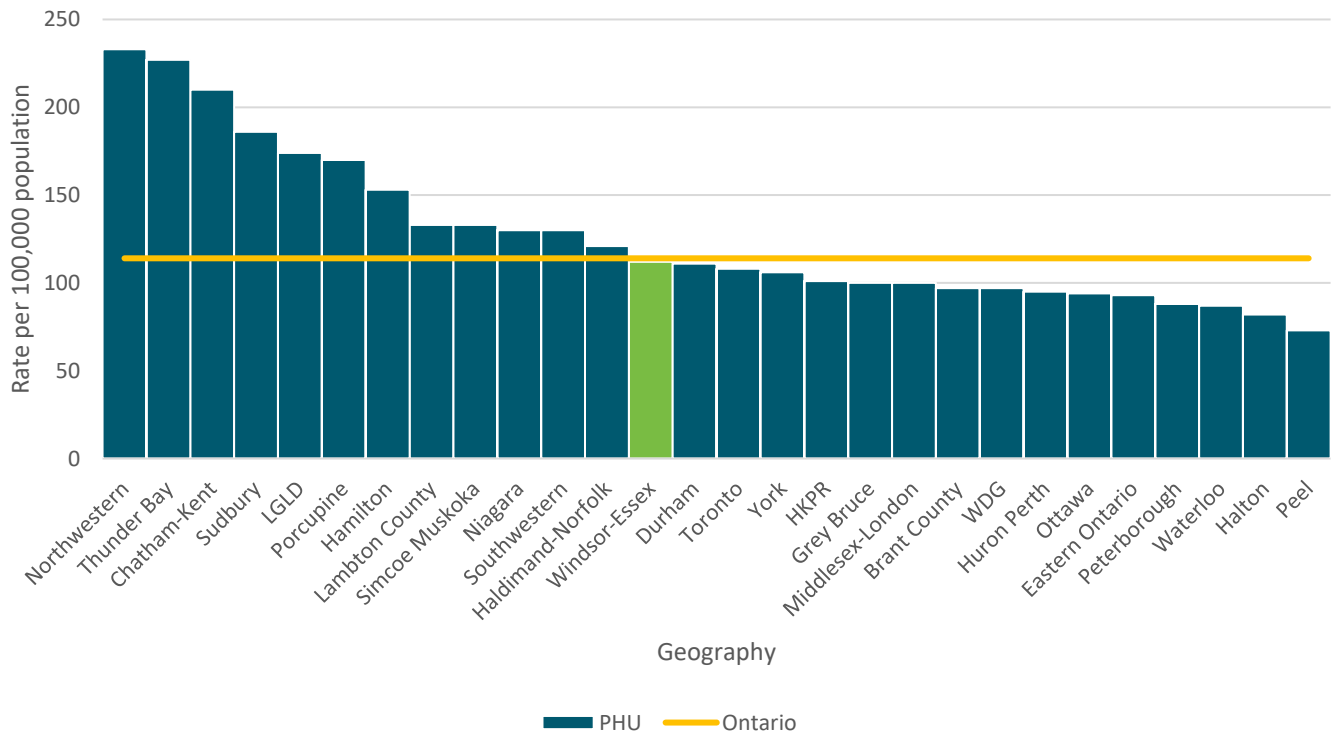
**Figure 1:** Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 17, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [03/May/2022] at 10:30 am.

During the past week (April 25 – May 1, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar decline was observed for all health units across Ontario except Chatham-Kent, Northwestern, and Porcupine, which reported a slight increase in their case rates (**Figure 2**). As testing has been limited to cases in high risk settings, the rates are an underrepresentation of the true case rate.

**Figure 2:** Weekly COVID-19 high-risk case rates across health units in Ontario: April 25 – May 1, 2022.

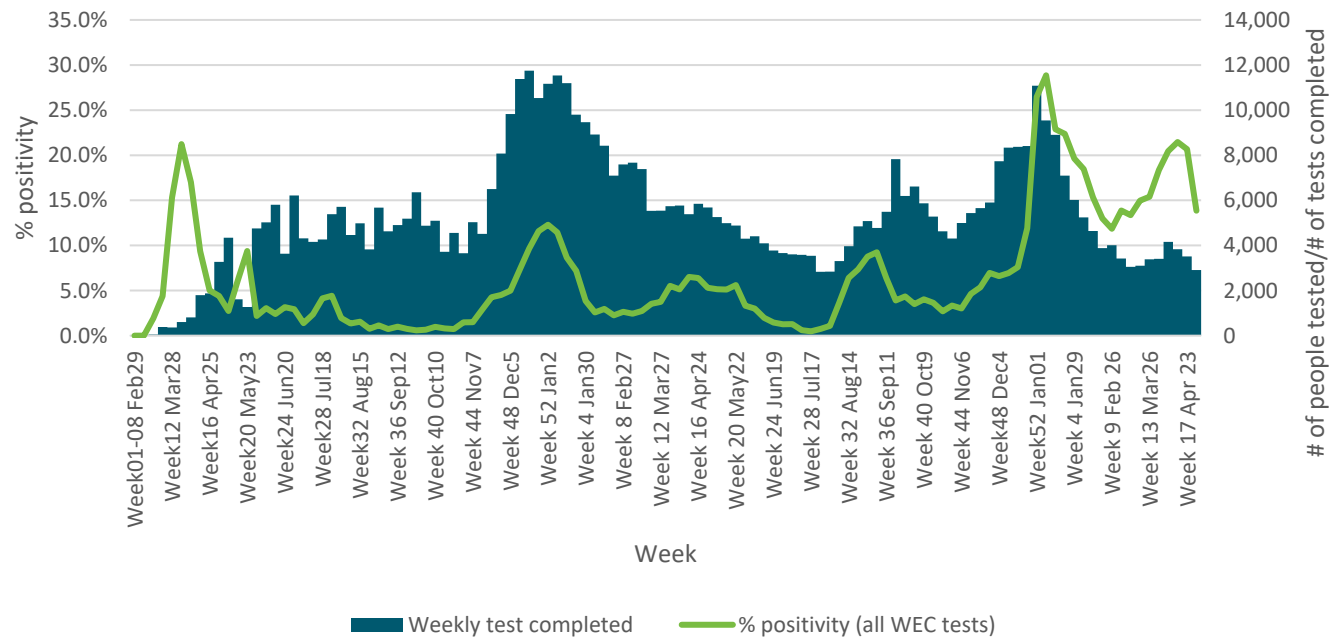


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 3, 2022.

### Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (April 24 - 30, 2022) is 13.8%, which is 6.9 percentage points lower than the previous week (20.7%; April 17 - 23, 2022). After peaking in mid-January, there was a decline in percent positivity until March, after which a consistent increase has been observed, although a sharp decline was reported for the most recent week.

**Figure 3:** Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to April 30, 2022

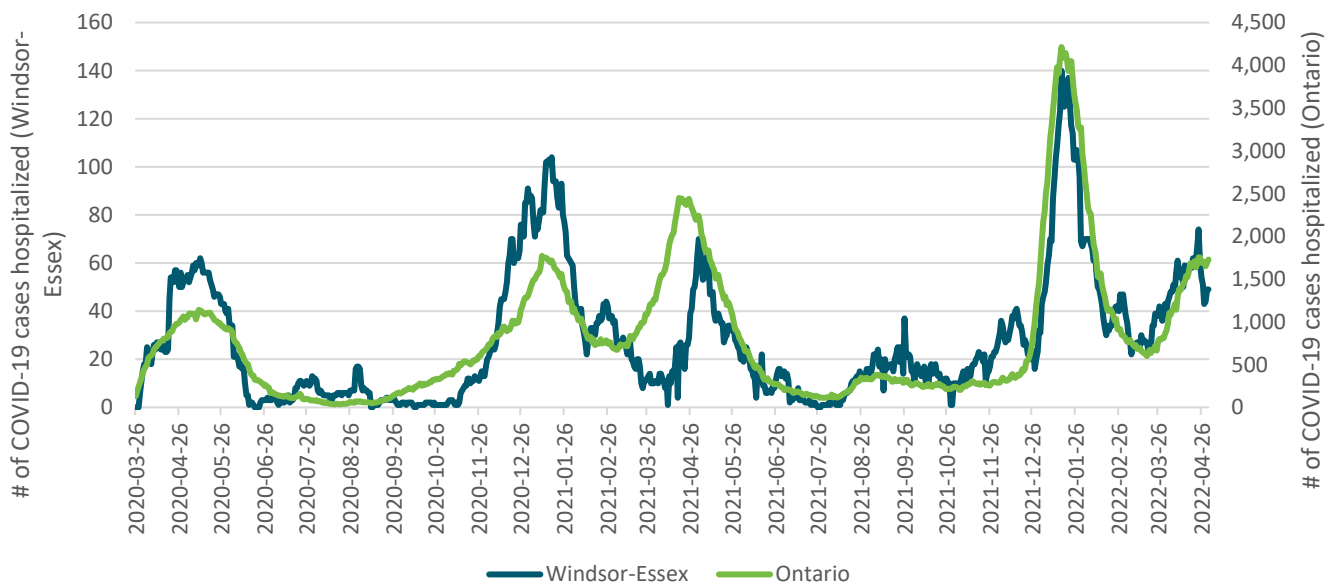


*Note:* Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rates should be interpreted with caution.  
**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 3, 2022.

*Hospitalization and ICU Admissions*

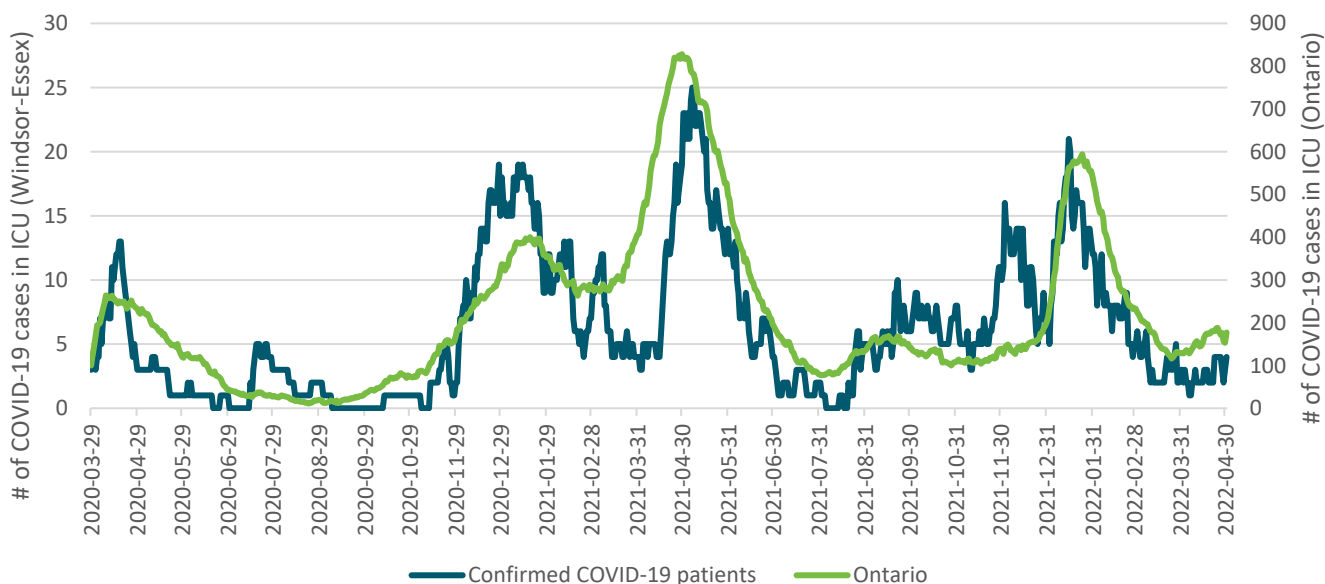
For the most recent week (April 25 – May 1, 2022), there have been 43 new hospital admissions which is lower than the 68 admissions seen during the previous week (April 18 - 24, 2022; **Figure 4**). Two new COVID-19 patient were admitted to ICU this week (April 25 – May 1, 2022), compared to three admissions reported during the previous week (**Figure 5**). ICU admissions continue to incrementally increase in Ontario.

**Figure 4:** Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – May 1, 2022



**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 3, 2022.

**Figure 5:** Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – May 1, 2022



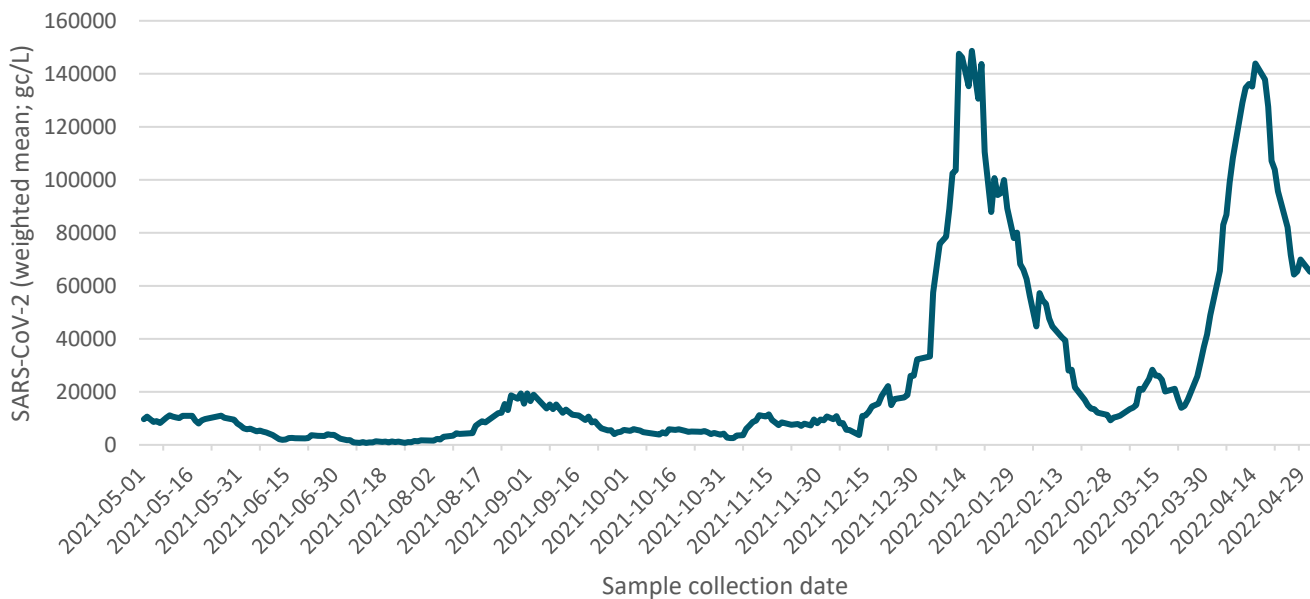
**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 3, 2022.

### Local Wastewater Surveillance

Research has shown that a significant proportion of individuals with COVID-19 infections shed the virus (SARS-CoV-2) in their stool, at times even before the onset of symptoms. The health unit has partnered with the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research at the University of Windsor which collects and treats wastewater for the WEC population.

For the current week (April 25 – May 1, 2022), the 7-day rolling average showed that the signal intensity remained relatively stable with a slight decline at the beginning of the week (**Figure 6**). Despite the recent decline, the viral signal remains significantly higher than the low levels observed during October 2021.

**Figure 6:** COVID-19 wastewater viral signal (7-day rolling average) in Windsor-Essex County: May 1, 2021 – May 1, 2022

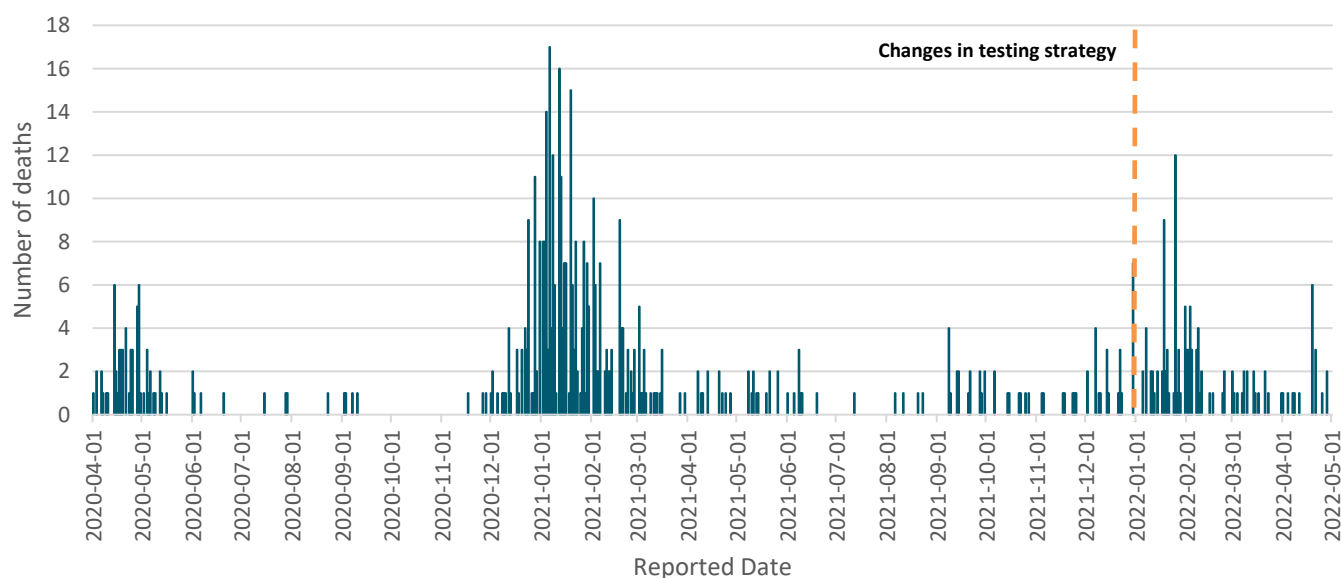


**Source:** Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on May 3, 2022.

## Deaths

As of May 1, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 610 COVID-19 related deaths. Three deaths were reported during the current week (April 25 – May 1, 2022; **Figure 7**), compared to nine deaths reported during the previous week (April 18 - 24, 2022).

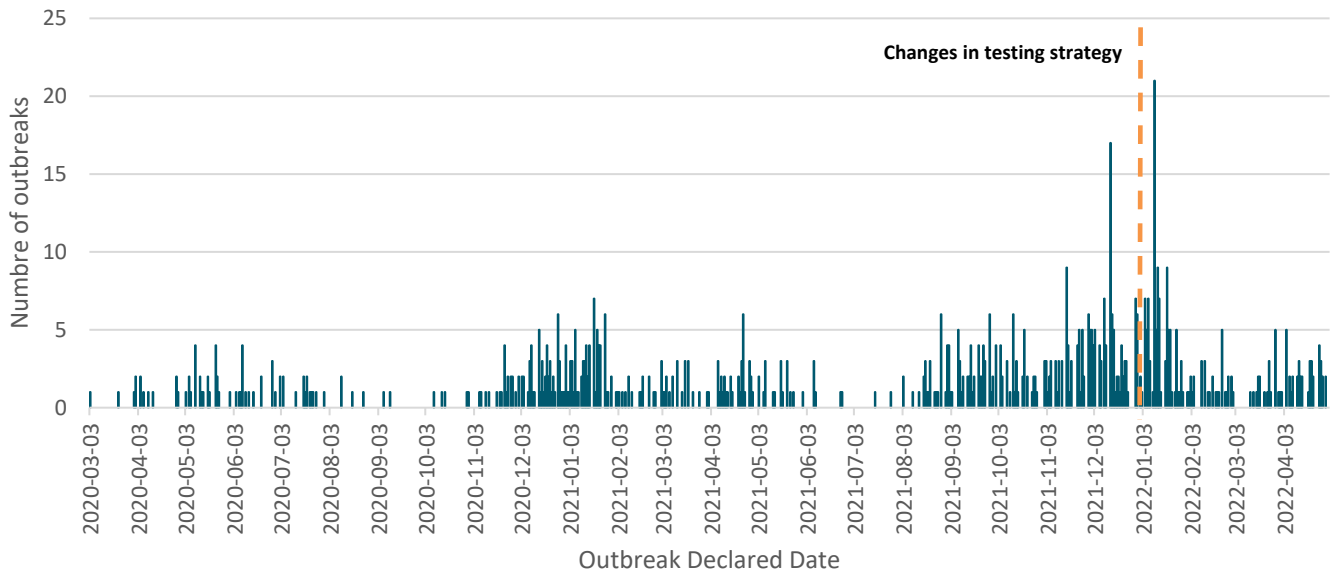
**Figure 7:** Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – May 1, 2022.



## Outbreaks

As of May 1, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 25 active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 8**). Eleven outbreaks were declared during this week (April 25 – May 1, 2022) compared to 9 outbreaks declared during the previous week (April 18 - 24, 2022). Due to the changes in testing strategy focusing on high risk settings since January, most of the current outbreaks are in long-term care homes, retirement homes, agricultural settings, and in other congregate settings.

**Figure 8:** Number of confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks declared by Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – May 1, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [03/May/2022] at 10:30 am.

**For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit:**

<https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>



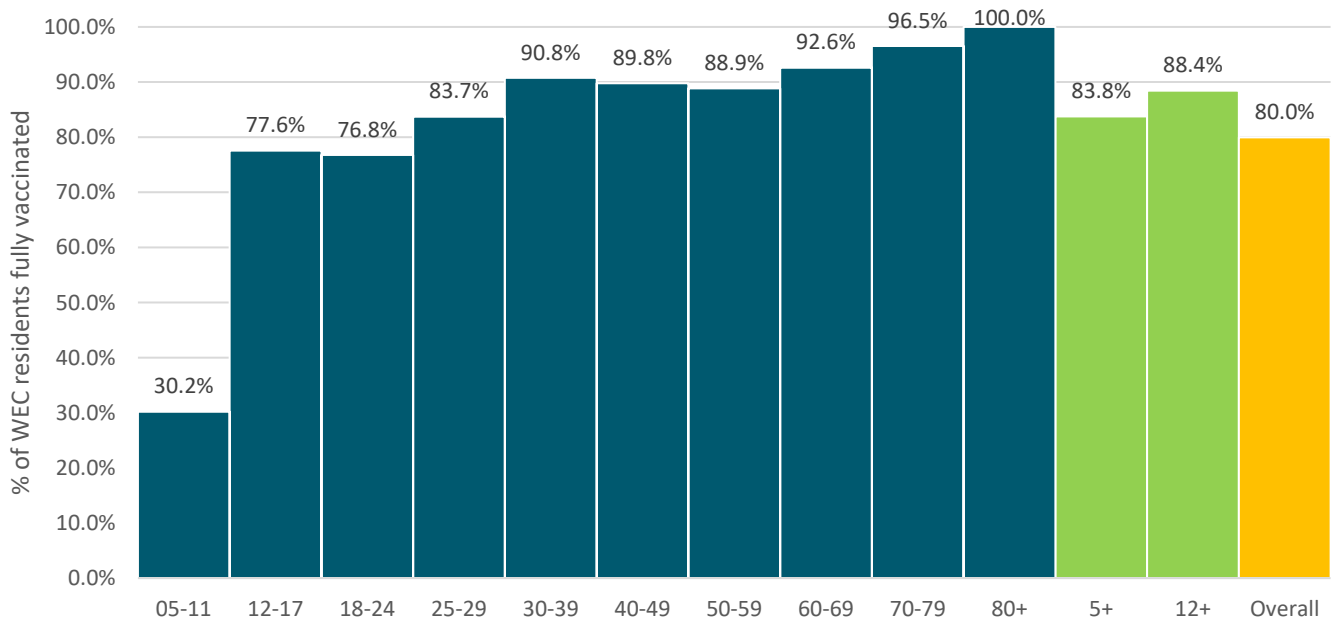
## **COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County**

Over 3,959 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 17 (April 25 to May 1) compared to 4,904 doses in week 16 (April 18 to April 24). This represents a 19.3% decrease between the two weeks.

### *Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rates by Age Group*

Overall, the 5-11 age group has the lowest coverage rate for two vaccines (30.2%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (76.8%) and 12-17 age group (77.6%) (**Figure 9**).

**Figure 9:** COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: May 2, 2022

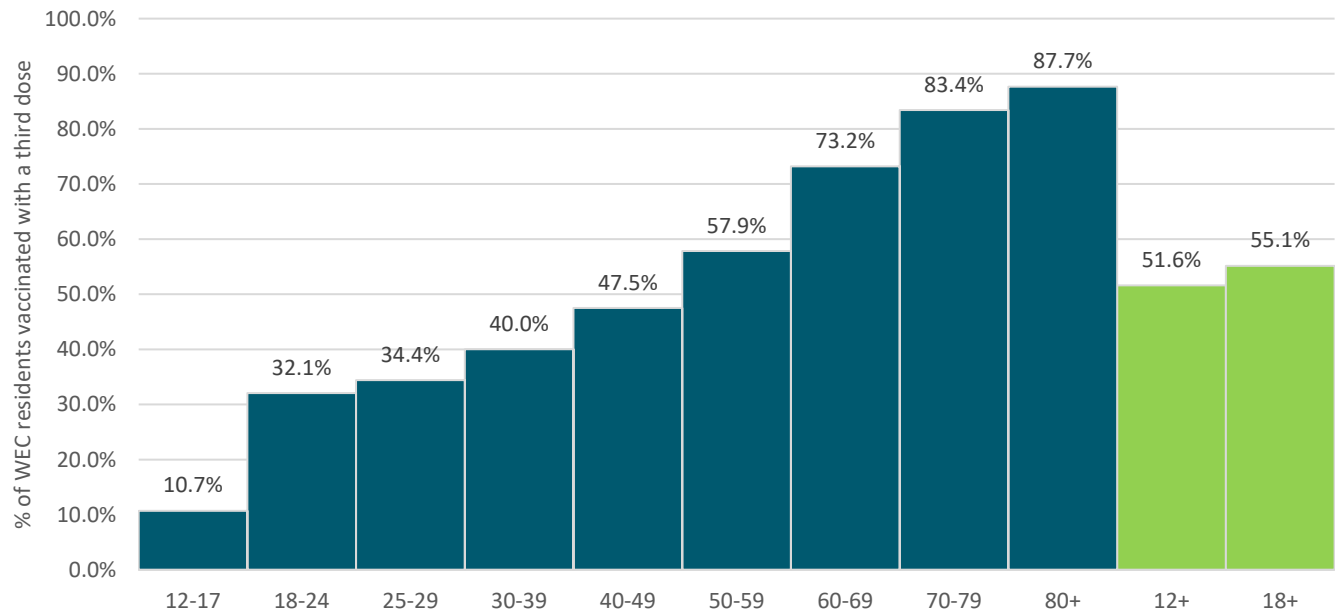


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 2, 2022

Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 51.6%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.7%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.1%) and 25-29 age group (34.4%) (Figure 10).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: May 2, 2022

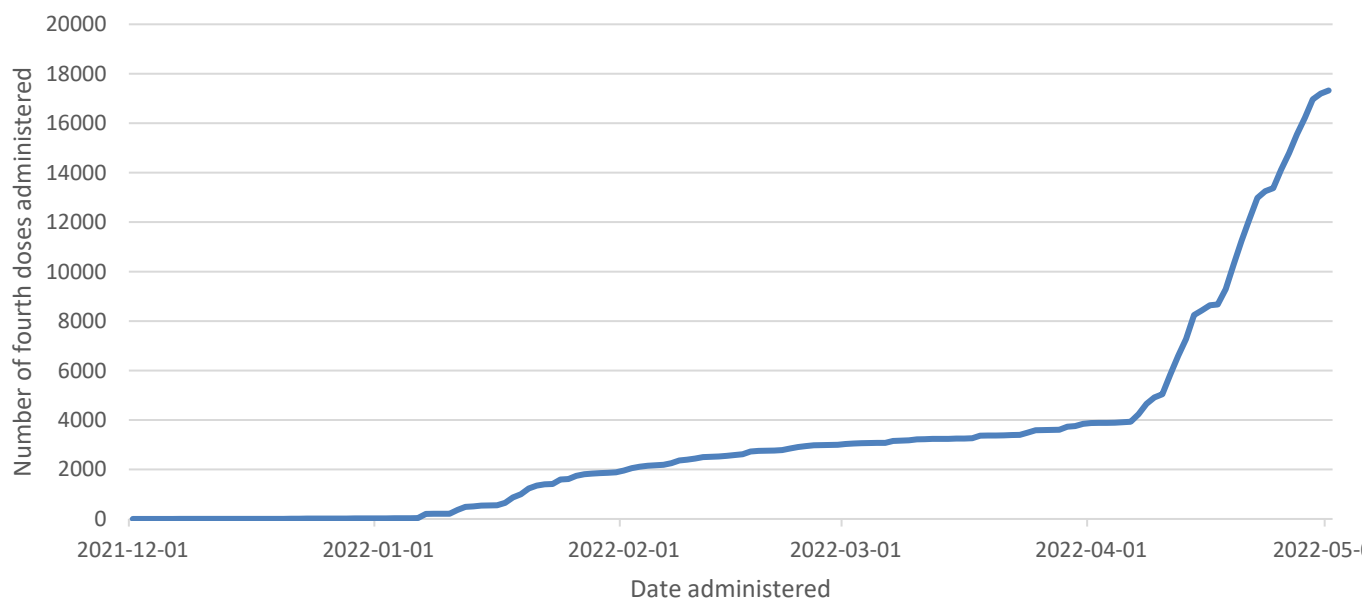


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 2, 2022

### *Cumulative Fourth Doses Administered Over Time*

A total of 17,323 fourth doses have been administered among Windsor and Essex County residents since December 2021 (**Figure 11**).

**Figure 11:** Cumulative Fourth Doses Administered Among Windsor and Essex County Residents over time: May 2, 2022

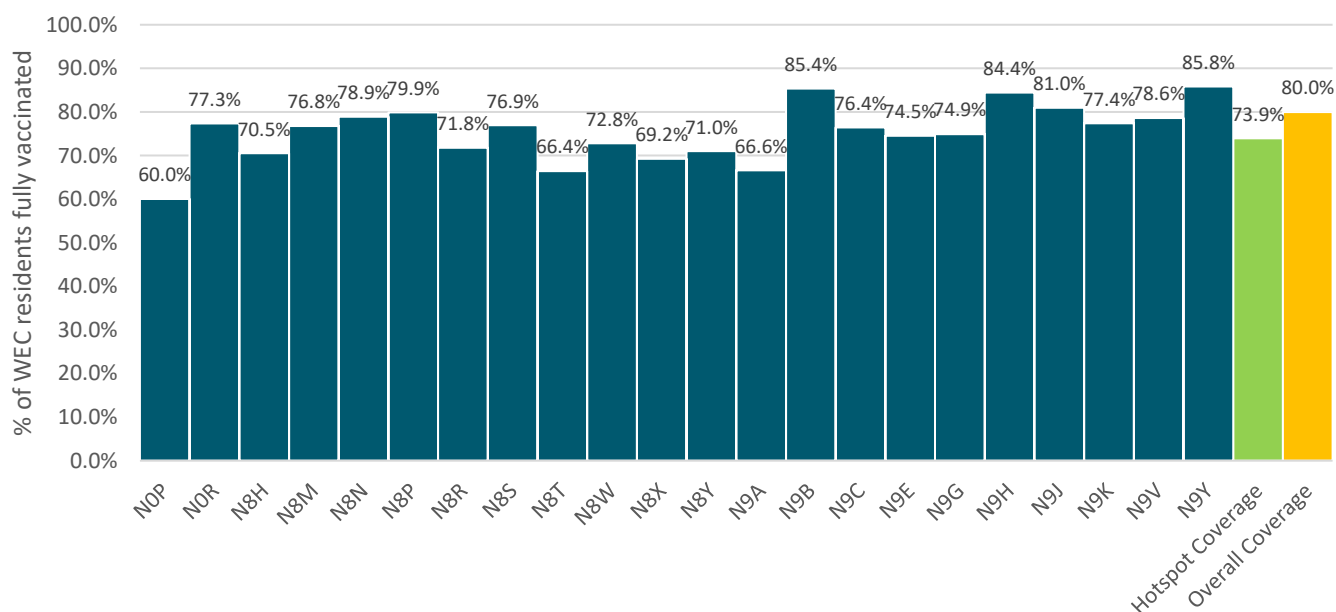


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 2, 2022.

### Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 80.0% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.9% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (60.0%), N8T (66.4%) and N9A (66.6%) have the lowest coverage rates in Windsor and Essex County (**Figure 12**).

**Figure 12:** COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor and Essex County: May 2, 2022



*Note:* Coverage rates by FSA include all Windsor and Essex County residents including children 0 to 4 years of age who are not eligible to receive the vaccine

**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 2, 2022

**For more information on local COVID-19 vaccine statistics, please visit:**

<https://www.wechu.org/cv/vaccination-stats>