

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

February 23<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 February 14 - 20, 2022)

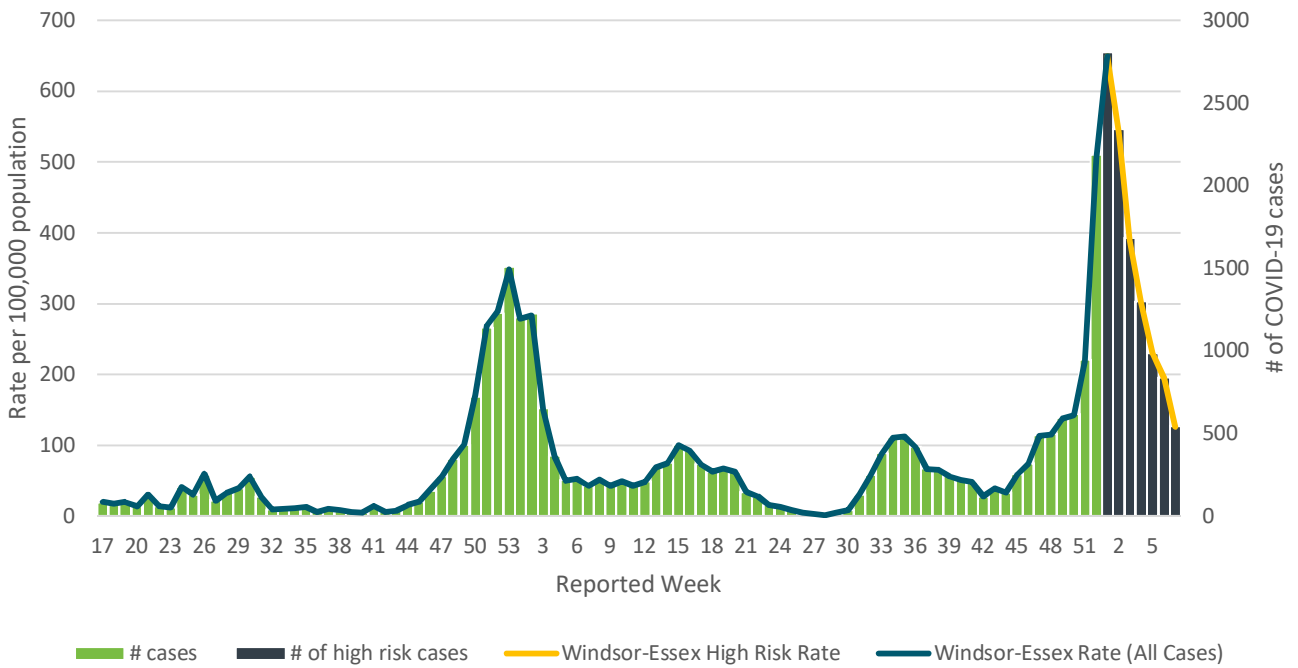
- For the week of February 14 - 20, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 126.3 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 42.5% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity decreased by 0.3 percentage points from 15.3% (February 6 - 12, 2022) to 15.0% (February 13 - 19, 2022).
- Hospitalizations decreased locally and across Ontario.
  - Number of ICU admissions decreased across Ontario but remained stable for Windsor-Essex County for the current week.
- Wastewater viral signals for the current week (February 14 - 20, 2022) showed an initial decline followed by an increase towards the end of the week.
- One death was reported this week (February 14 - 20, 2022) compared to seven deaths reported during the previous week (February 7 - 13, 2022).
- Seven outbreaks were declared during this week (February 14 – 20, 2022) compared to six outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 7 - 13, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 53.1% for residents 18 years and older.
  - Local residents 18 to 24 years old have the lowest third dose coverage rate (31.2%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (82.8%).

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

#### *Trends*

For the most recent completed week of February 14 - 20, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 126.3 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (February 7 - 13, 2022; 194.4 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a constant decrease in case rate has been observed, which is likely an underestimate due to limited testing.

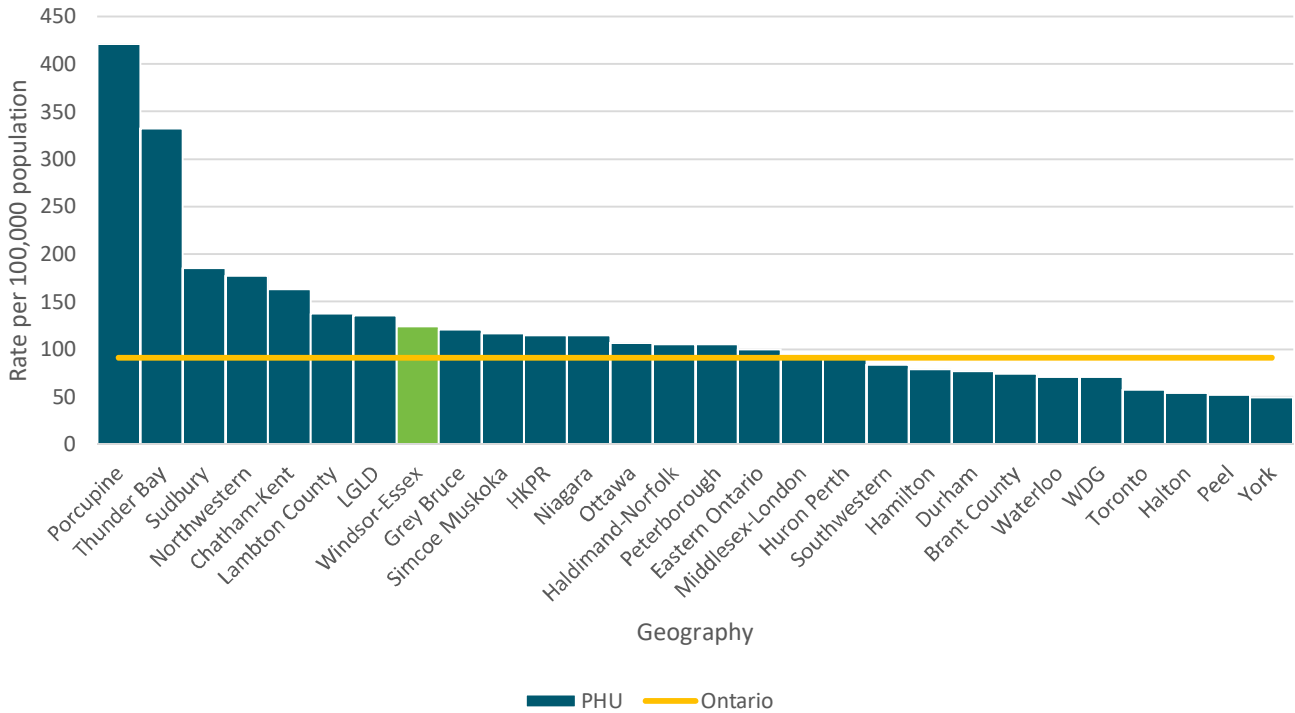
**Figure 1:** Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 7, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [22/Feb/2022] at 10:30 am.

During the past week (February 14 - 20, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar trend can be observed across all other health units across Ontario except Porcupine Health Unit which reported an increase in their case rate. WEC has the eighth highest case rate in the province (**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: February 14 - 20, 2022.

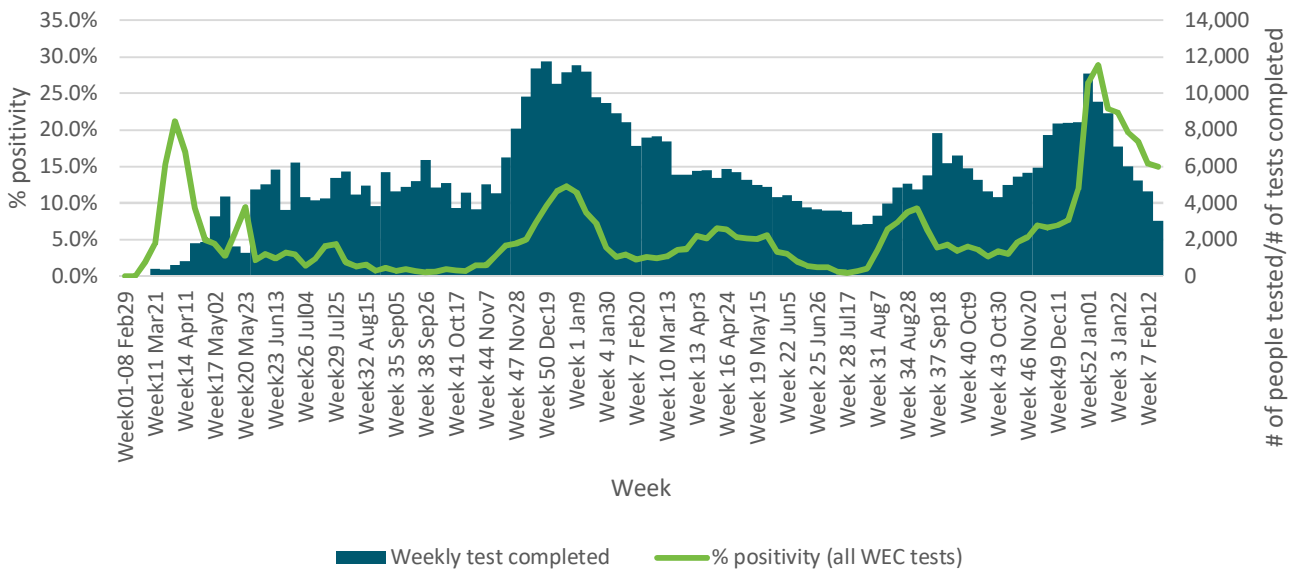


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 22, 2022

*Percent Positivity*

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (February 13 - 19, 2022) is 15.0% and remains relatively unchanged from the previous week. After a sharp increase during mid December 2021, there has been a consistent decline in percent positivity since January 2022, and a slight decline was observed during the current week (February 13 - 19, 2022).

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

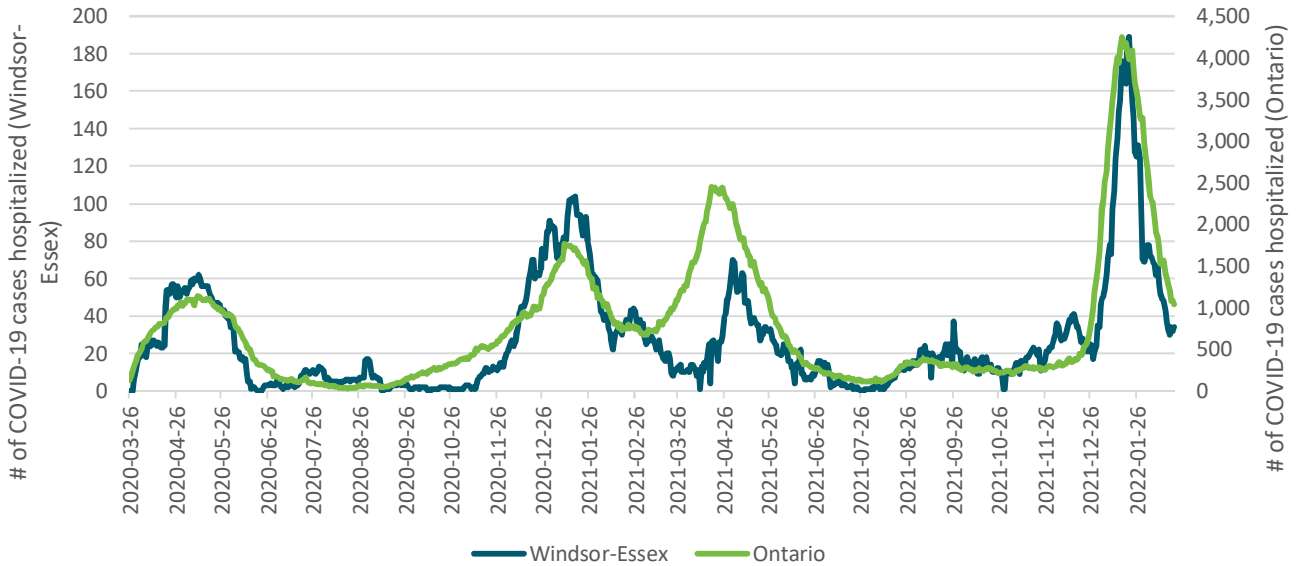


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 22, 2022.

*Hospitalization and ICU Admissions*

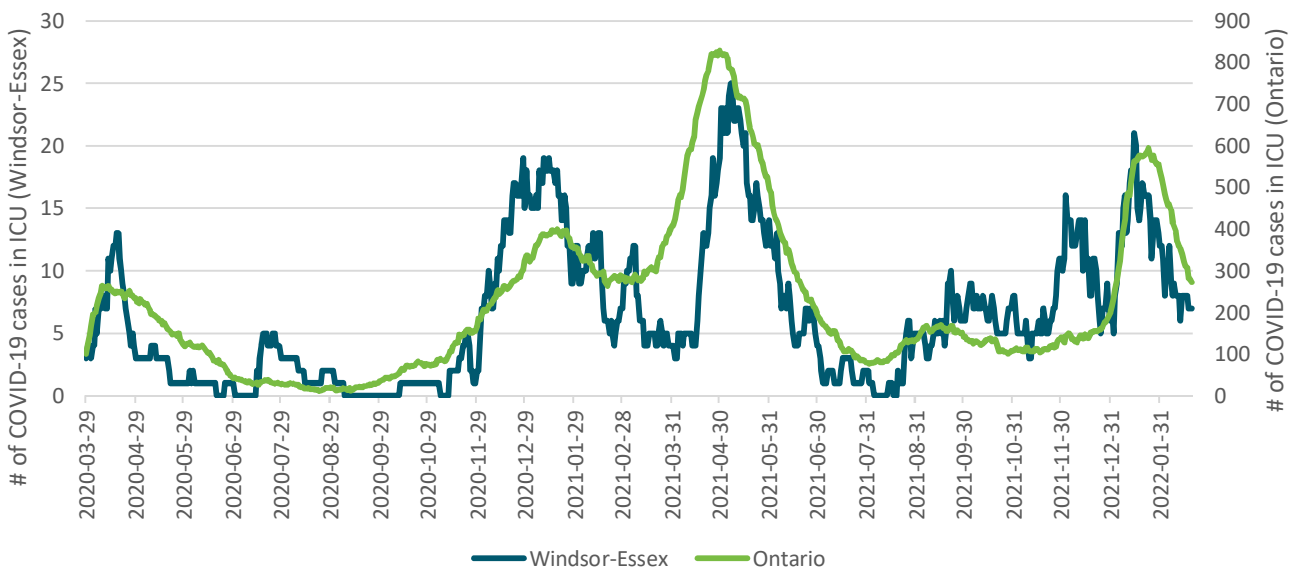
For the most recent week (February 14 - 20, 2022), there have been 35 new hospital admissions compared to 53 new admissions seen during the previous week (February 7 - 13, 2022; **Figure 4**). Four new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU during this week (February 14 - 20, 2022), which is similar to the number of ICU admissions reported last week (**Figure 5**). After peaking in mid January, the number of hospitalizations has been consistently decreasing for both Windsor-Essex County and Ontario. Similar trend of declining number of ICU admissions can be observed for Windsor-Essex County as well as Ontario.

**Figure 4:** Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – February 20, 2022



**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 22, 2022.

**Figure 5:** Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – February 20, 2022



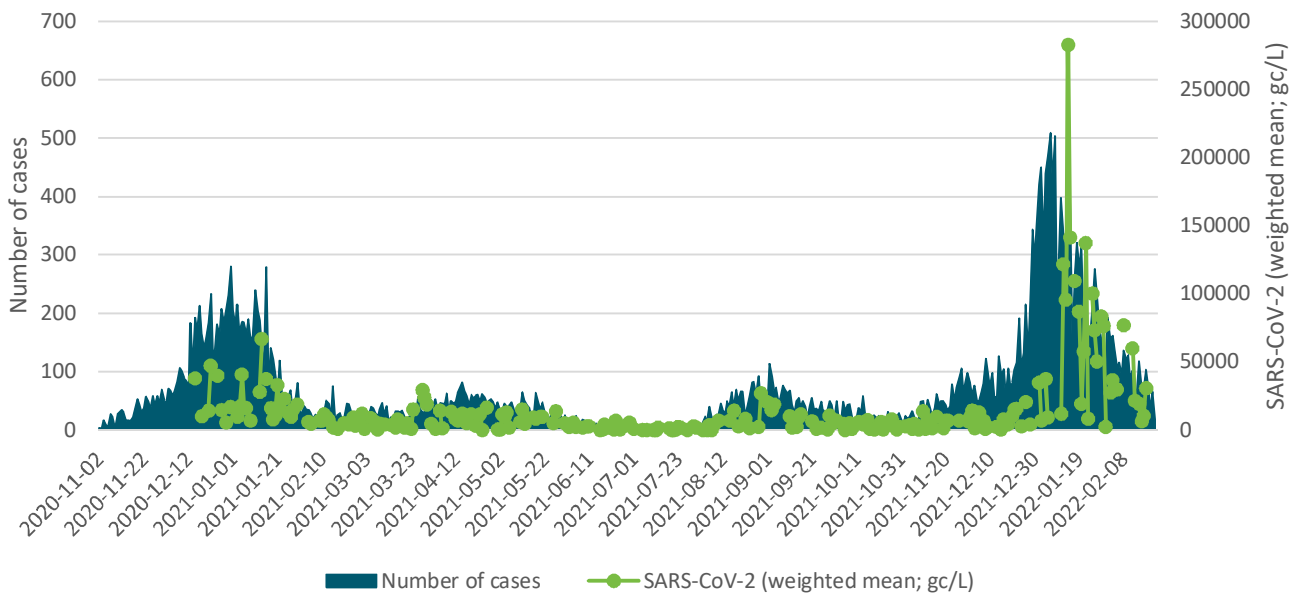
**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 22, 2022.

### Local Wastewater Surveillance

Research has shown that a significant proportion of individuals with COVID-19 infections shed the virus (SARS-VCoV-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 (February 14 - 20, 2022), the signal intensity remained more or less consistent to what was observed last week (**Figure 6**).

**Figure 6:** COVID-19 wastewater viral signal in Windsor-Essex County: August 1, 2021 – February 20, 2022

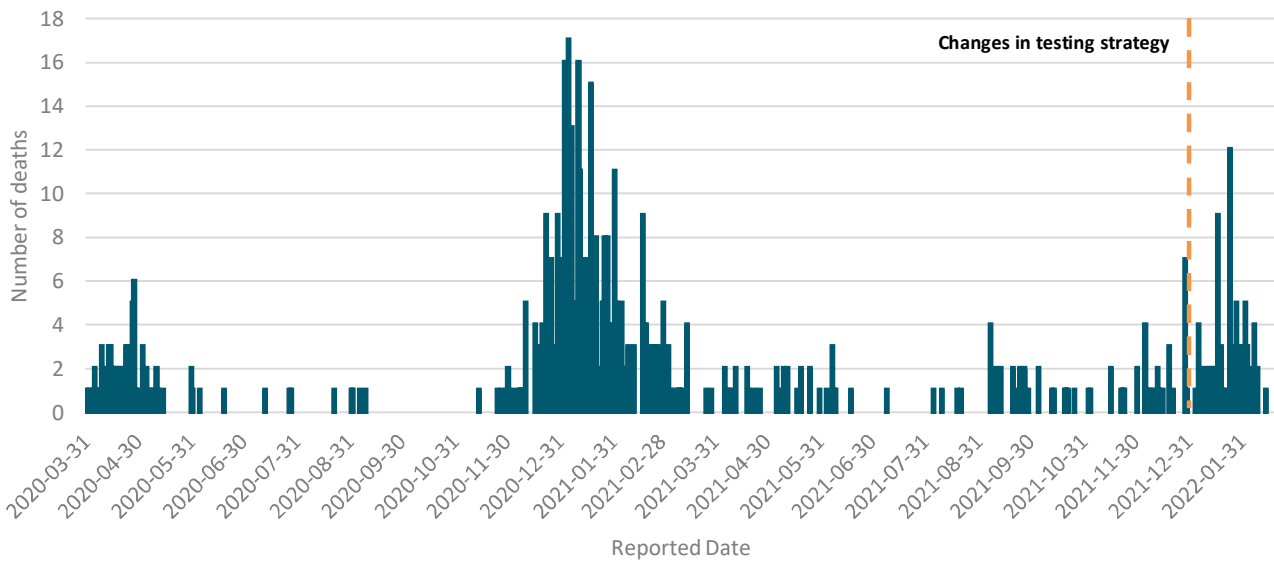


**Source:** Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on February 22, 2022.

### Deaths

As of February 20, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 573 COVID-19 related deaths. Only one death was reported during the current week (February 14 - 20, 2022; **Figure 7**) compared to seven deaths reported during the previous week (February 7 - 13, 2022).

**Figure 7:** Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – February 20, 2022.

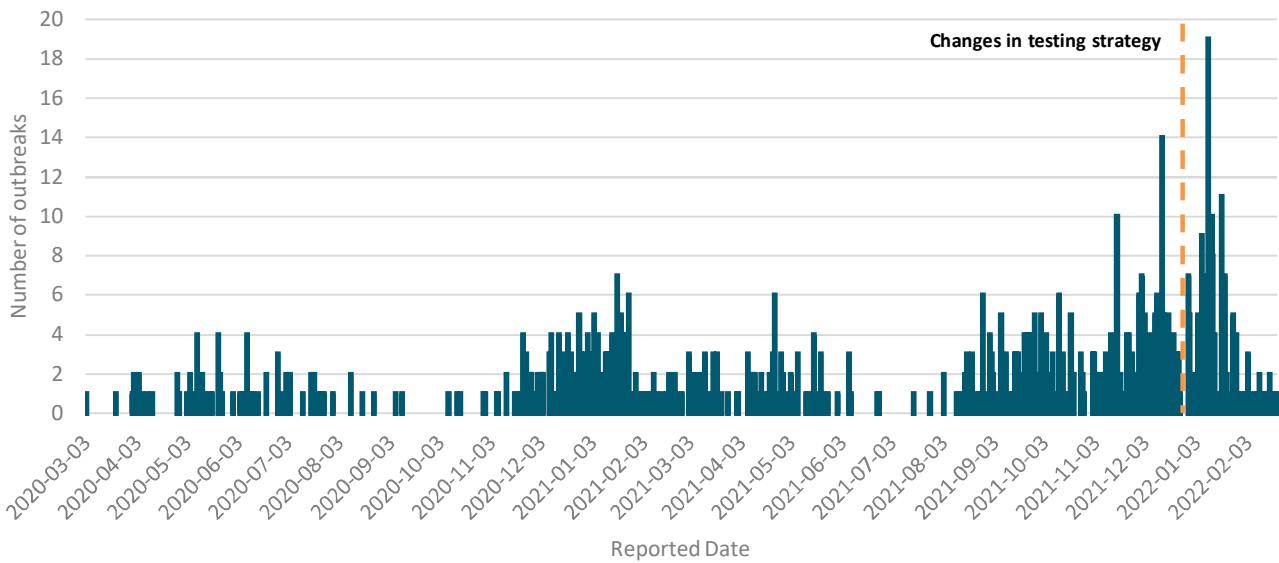


**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [22/Feb/2022] at 10:30 am.

## Outbreaks

As of February 20, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 33 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Seven outbreaks were declared during the current week (February 14 – 20, 2022) compared to six outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 7 - 13, 2022; **Figure 8**). Due to the changes in testing strategy focusing on high risk settings since January, most of our 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 – February 20, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [22/Feb/2022] at 10:30 am.

For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>



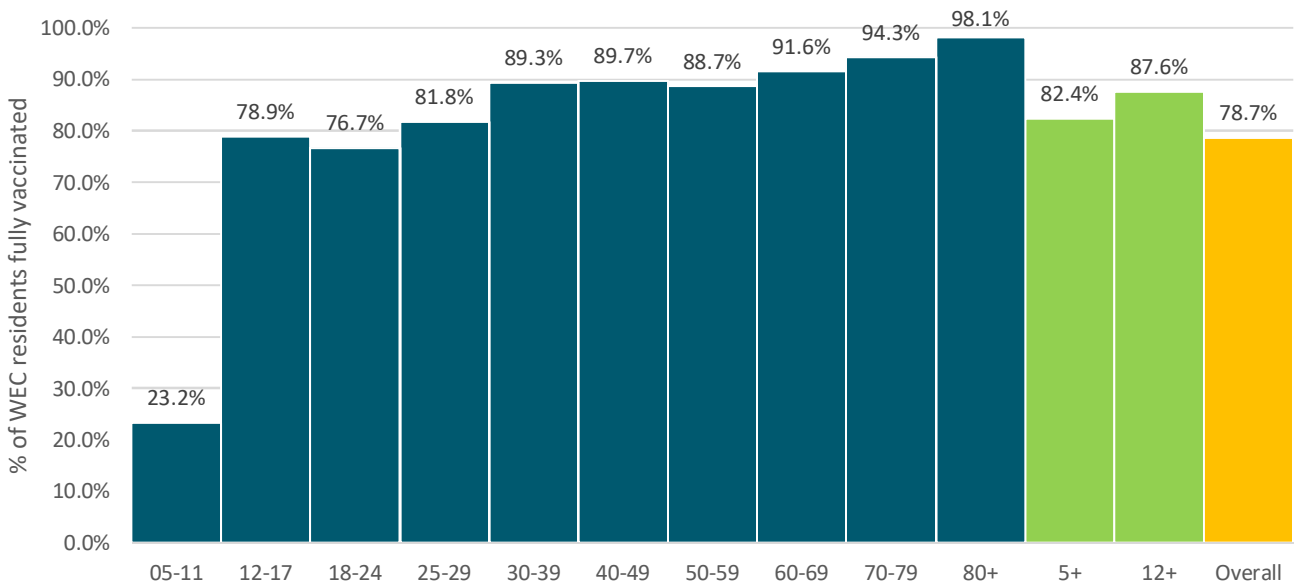
**COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County**

Over 3,258 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 7 (February 14 to February 20) compared to 3,989 doses in week 6 (February 7 to February 13). This represents an 18.3% 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 (23.2%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (76.7%) and 12-17 age group (78.9%) (**Figure 9**).

**Figure 9:** COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: February 20, 2022

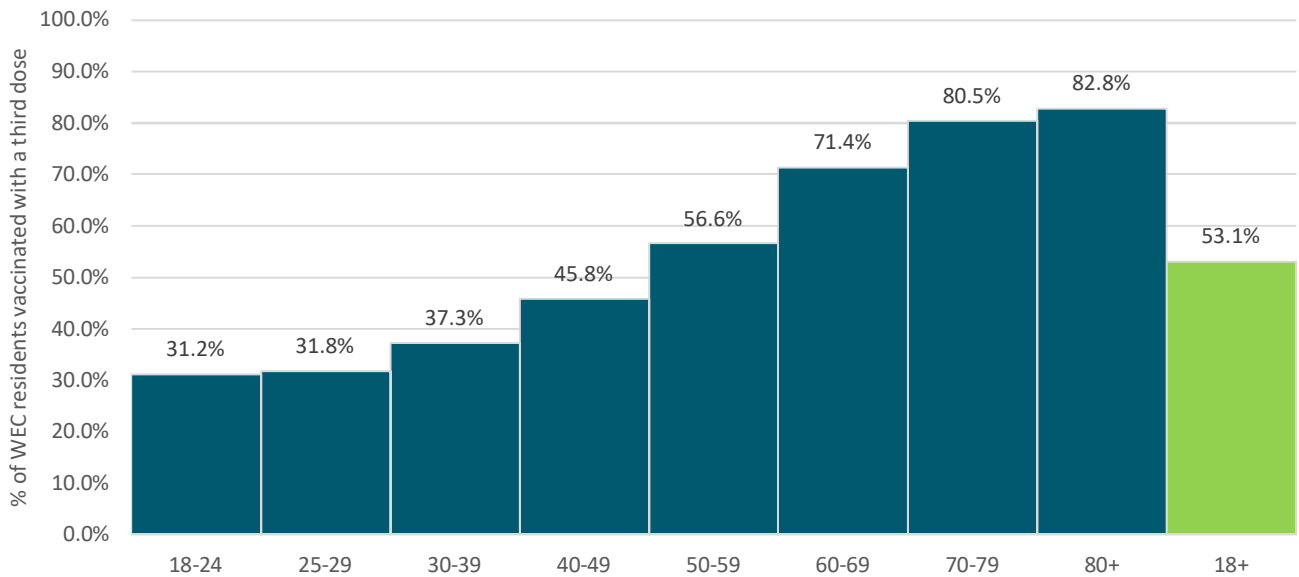


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: February 22, 2022

### Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 53.1%. Comparing across ages, the 18-24 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (31.2%), followed by those in the 25-29 age group (31.8%) and 30-39 age group (37.3%; **Figure 10**).

**Figure 10:** COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: February 20, 2022

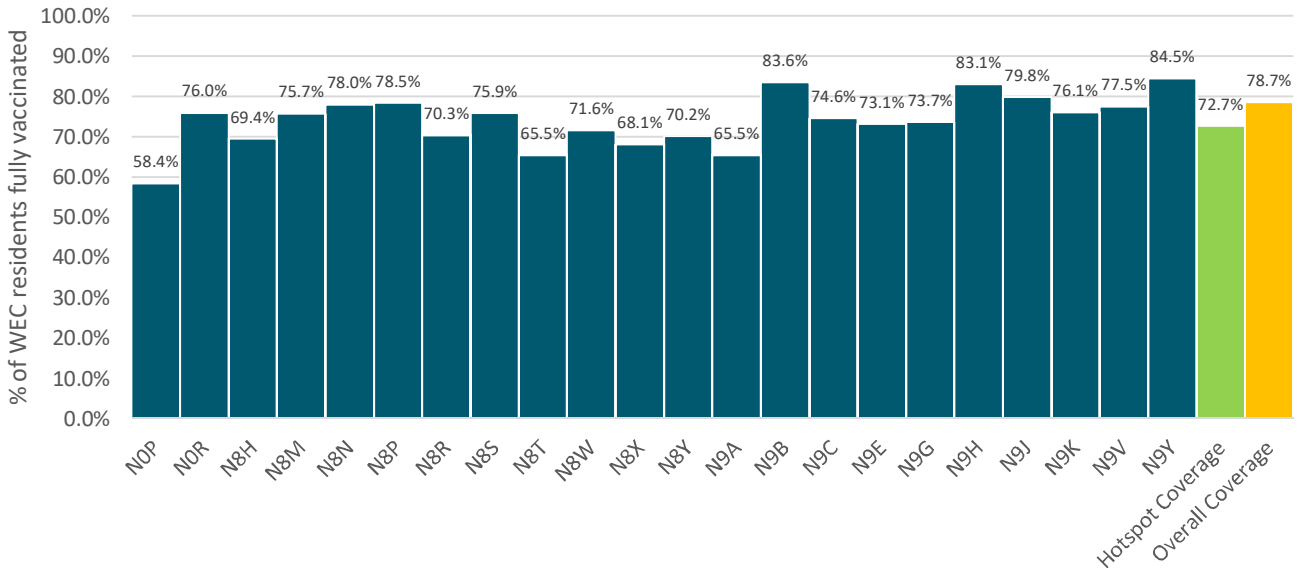


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: February 22, 2022

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

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 78.7% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 72.7% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (58.4%), N9A (65.5%) and N8T (65.5%) have the lowest coverage rates in Windsor and Essex County (**Figure 11**).

**Figure 11:** COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor and Essex County: February 22, 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: February 22, 2022

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

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