

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

March 2<sup>nd</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 21 - 27, 2022)

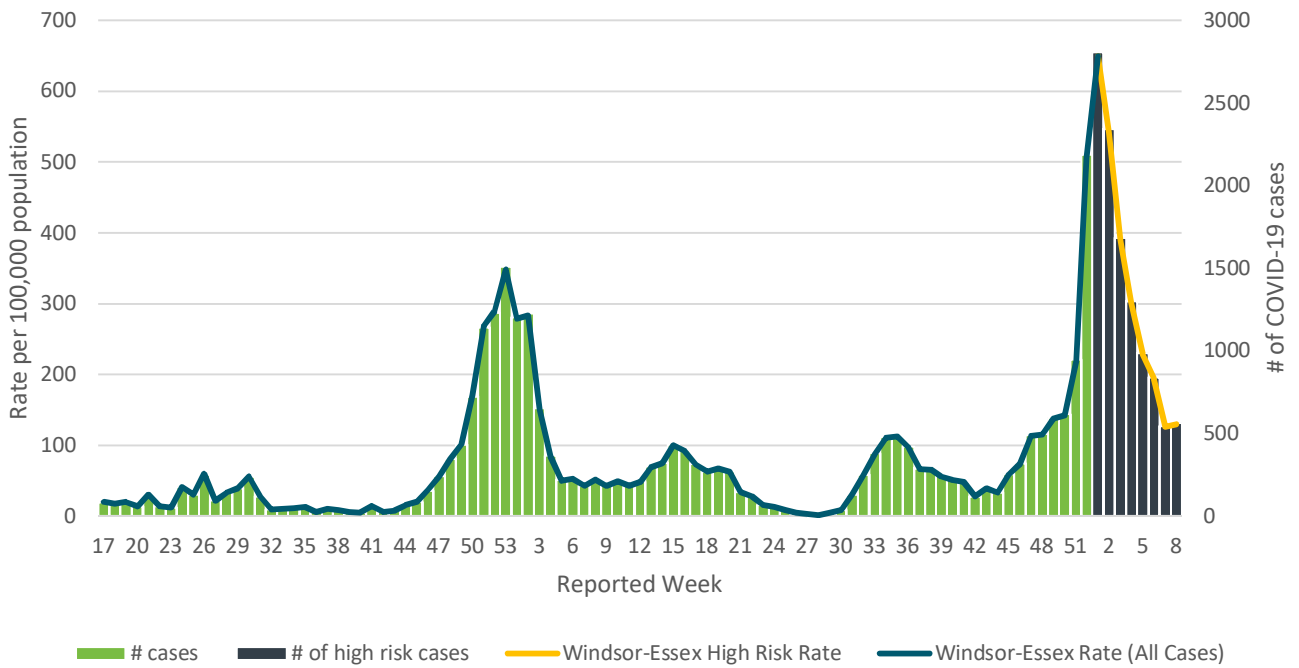
- For the week of February 21 - 27, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 130.3 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 3.1% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 0.6 percentage points from 13.0% (February 13 - 19, 2022) to 13.6% (February 20 - 26, 2022).
- Number of in-patient admissions increased for Windsor-Essex during this week, whereas a decline was observed across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for the current week (February 21 - 27, 2022) showed an initial decline followed by a slight increase towards the end of the week.
- Three deaths were reported this week (February 21 - 27, 2022) compared to two deaths reported during the previous week (February 14 - 20, 2022).
- Seven outbreaks were declared during this week (February 21 - 27, 2022), which is similar to the number of outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 14 - 20, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 49.7% for residents 12 years and older.
  - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (6.6%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (83.2%).

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

#### *Trends*

For the most recent completed week of February 21 - 27, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 130.3 cases per 100,000 population, which is higher than the previous week's rate (February 14 - 20, 2022; 126.3 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a consistent decrease in case rate has been observed, which is likely an underestimate due to limited testing.

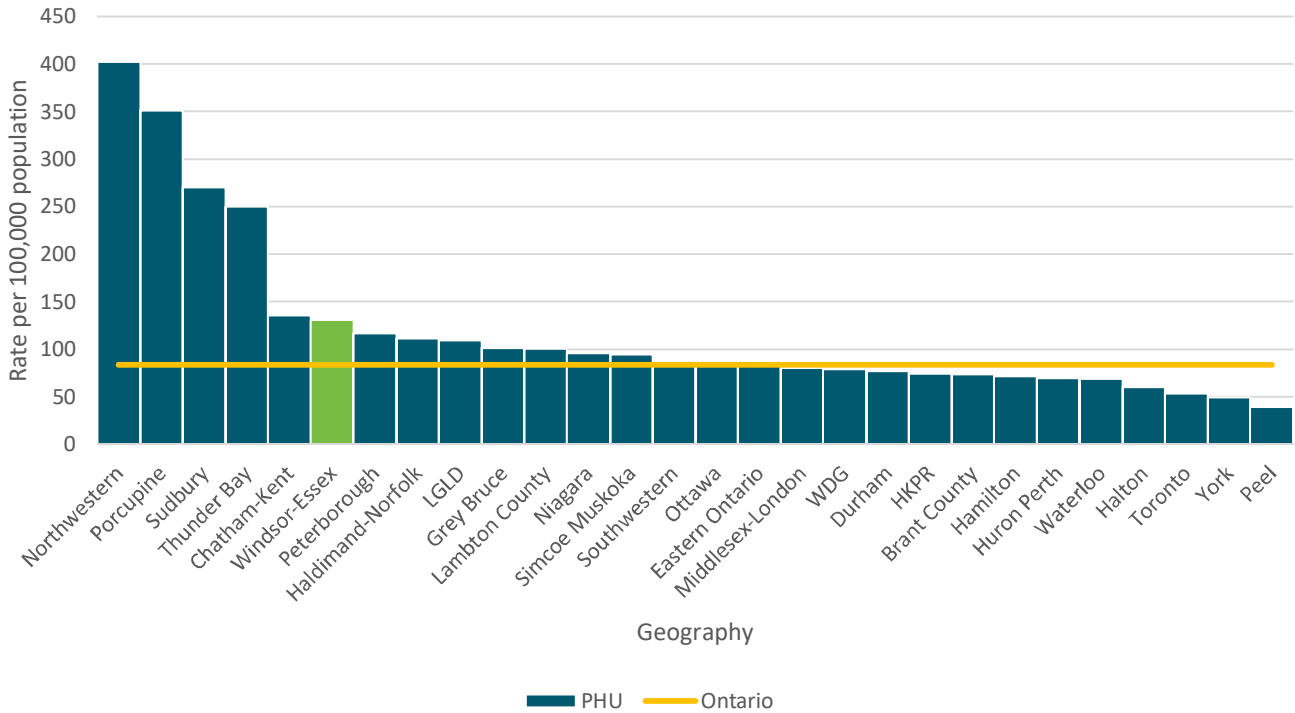
**Figure 1:** Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 8, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [01/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

During the past week (February 21 - 27, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has slightly increased and a similar trend can be observed across six other health units across Ontario including Northwestern, Porcupine, Sudbury, Peterborough, Southwester and Wellington-Dufferin. A decrease in high-risk case rate was reported for all other health units in Ontario. Windsor-Essex County has the sixth 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 21 - 27, 2022.

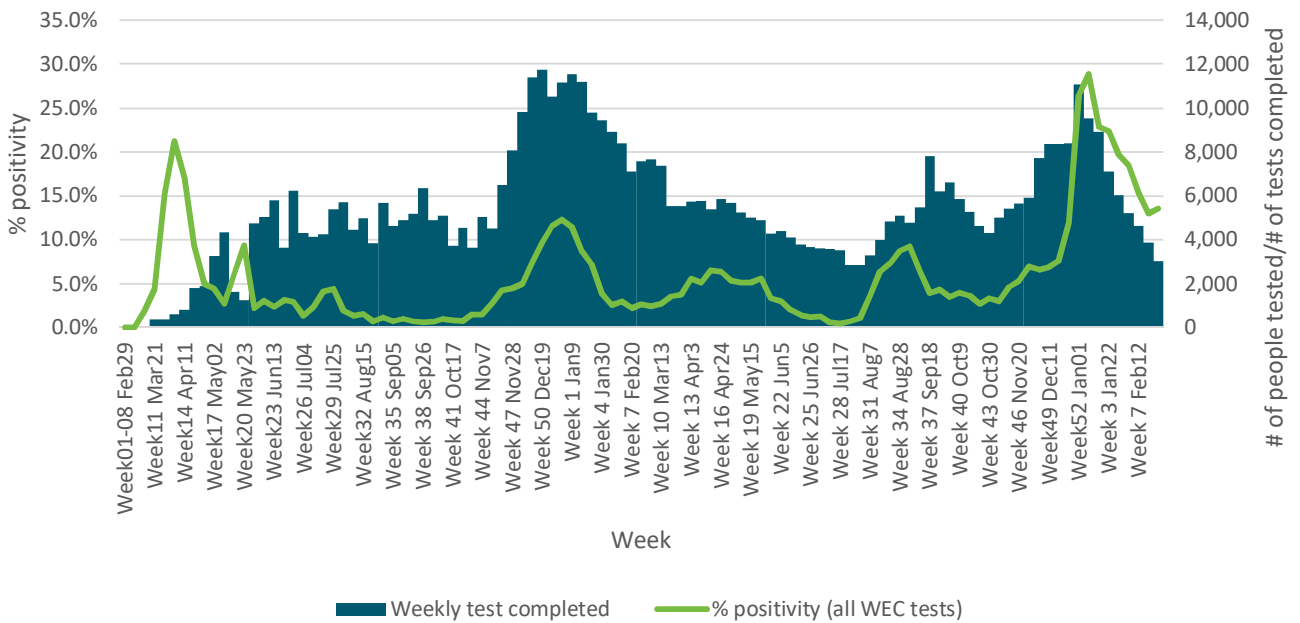


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 1, 2022

*Percent Positivity*

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (February 20 - 26, 2022) is 13.6%, and is 0.6 percentage points higher than the previous week (13.0%; February 13 – 19, 2022). After a sharp increase during mid December 2021, there has been a consistent decline in percent positivity since January 2022, and a slight increase was observed during the current week (February 20 - 26, 2022).

**Figure 3:** Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to February 26, 2022

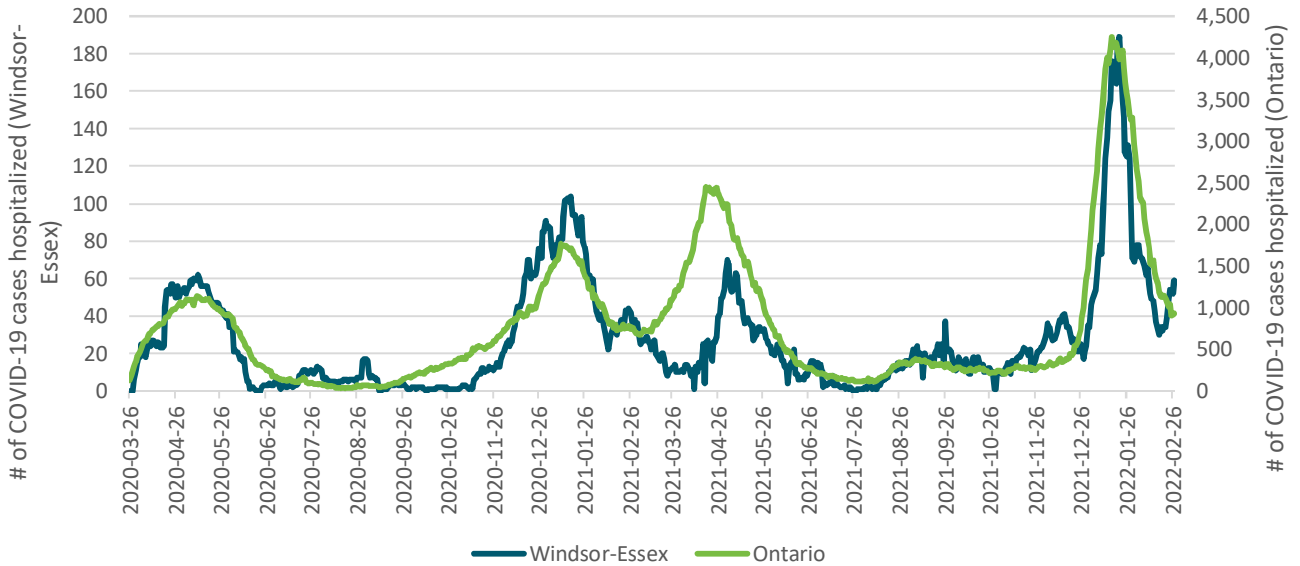


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 1, 2022.

### Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

For the most recent week (February 21 - 27, 2022), there have been 69 new hospital admissions compared to 35 new admissions seen during the previous week (February 14 - 20, 2022; **Figure 4**). Five new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU during this week (February 21 - 27, 2022), which is higher than 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. Although this decline continued for Ontario, an increase in hospitalizations and ICU admissions was reported for Windsor-Essex County during the past week.

**Figure 4:** Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – February 27, 2022



**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 1, 2022.

**Figure 5:** Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – February 27, 2022



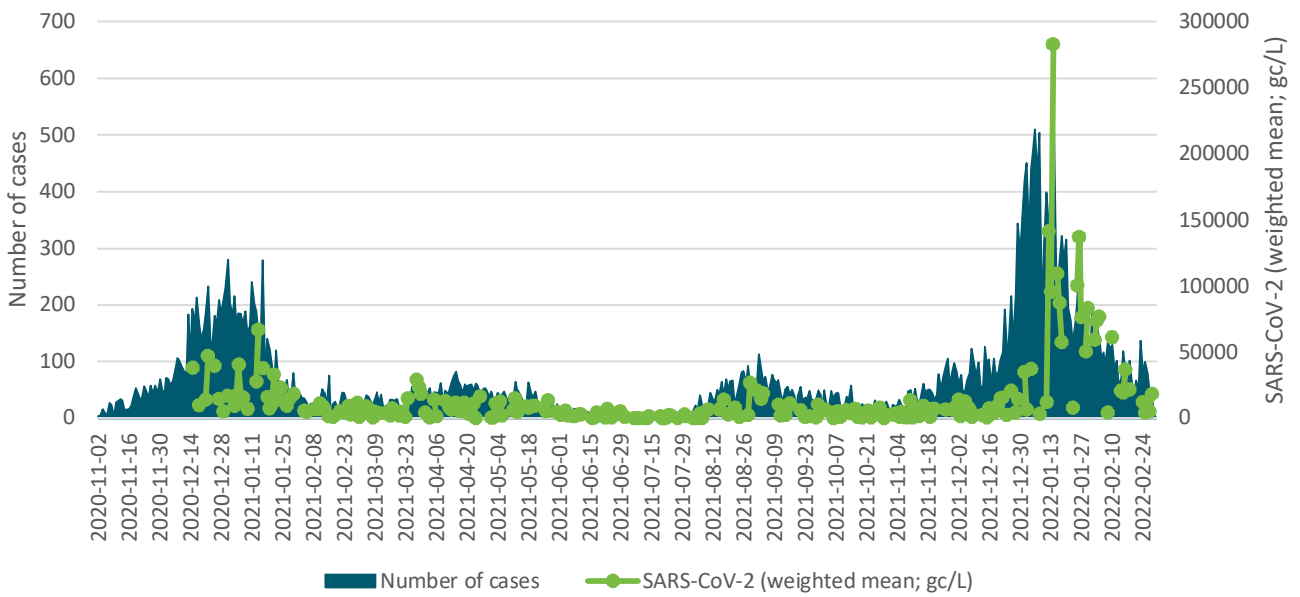
**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 1, 2022.

### 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 21 - 27, 2022), the signal intensity remained more or less consistent with an initial decline and a slight increase towards the end of the week (**Figure 6**).

**Figure 6:** COVID-19 wastewater viral signal in Windsor-Essex County: August 1, 2021 – February 27, 2022

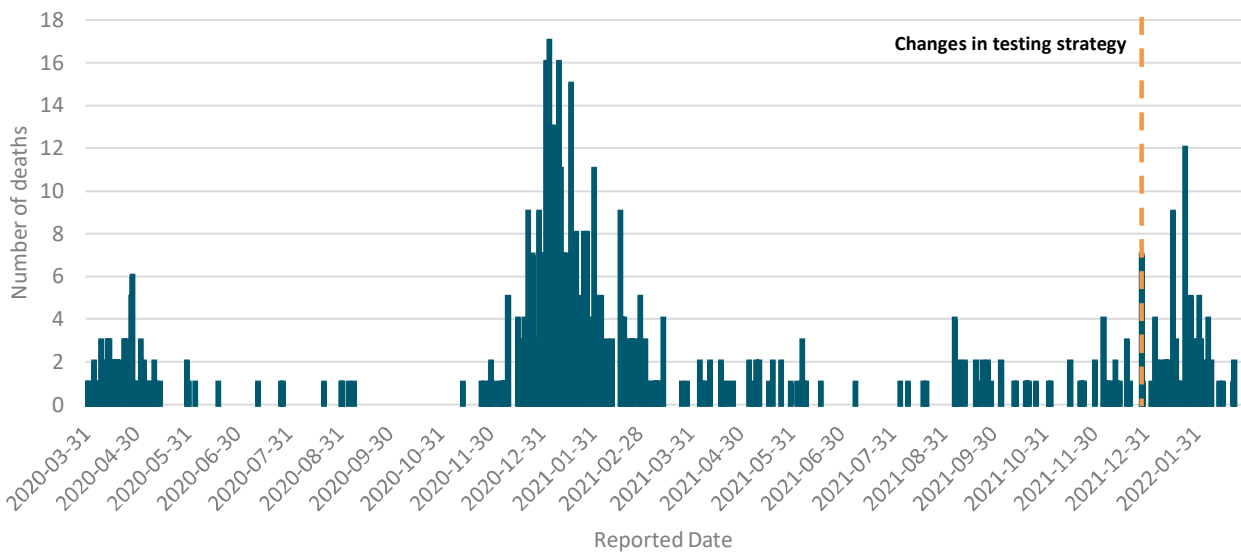


**Source:** Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on March 1, 2022.

## Deaths

As of February 27, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 576 COVID-19 related deaths. Three deaths were reported during the current week (February 21 - 27, 2022; **Figure 7**) compared to two deaths reported during the previous week (February 14 - 20, 2022).

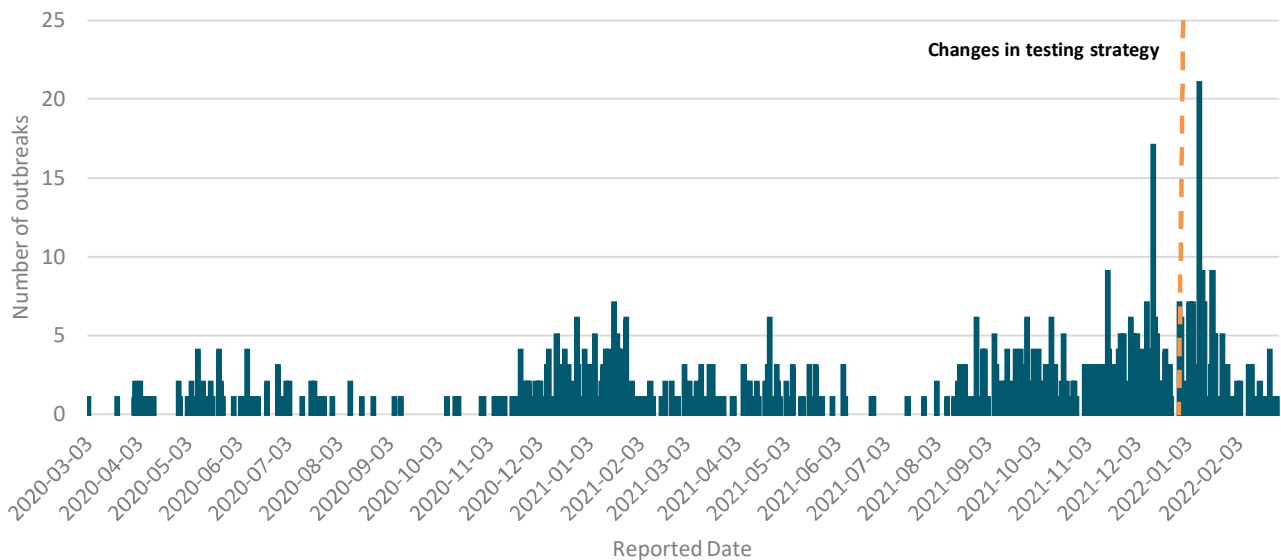
**Figure 7:** Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – February 27, 2022.



## Outbreaks

As of February 27, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 20 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Similar to the previous week, seven outbreaks were declared during the current week (February 21 - 27, 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 27, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [01/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

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



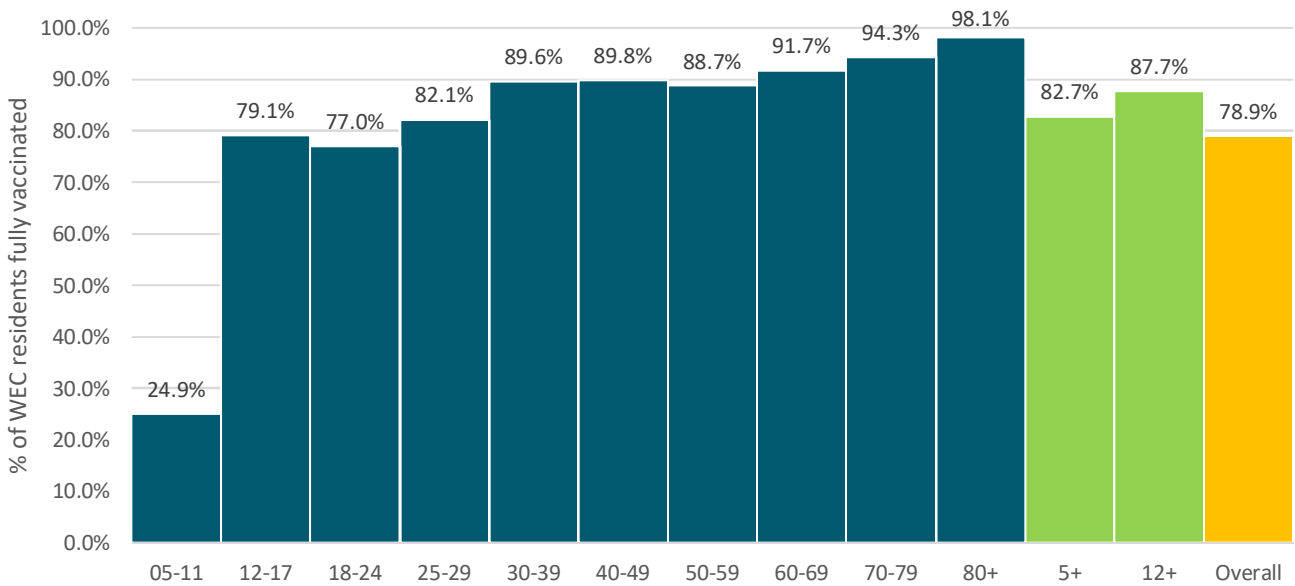
**COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County**

Over 2,744 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 8 (February 21 to February 27) compared to 3,264 doses in week 7 (February 14 to February 20). This represents a 15.9% 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 (24.9%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (77.0%) and 12-17 age group (79.1%) (**Figure 9**).

**Figure 9:** COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 1, 2022

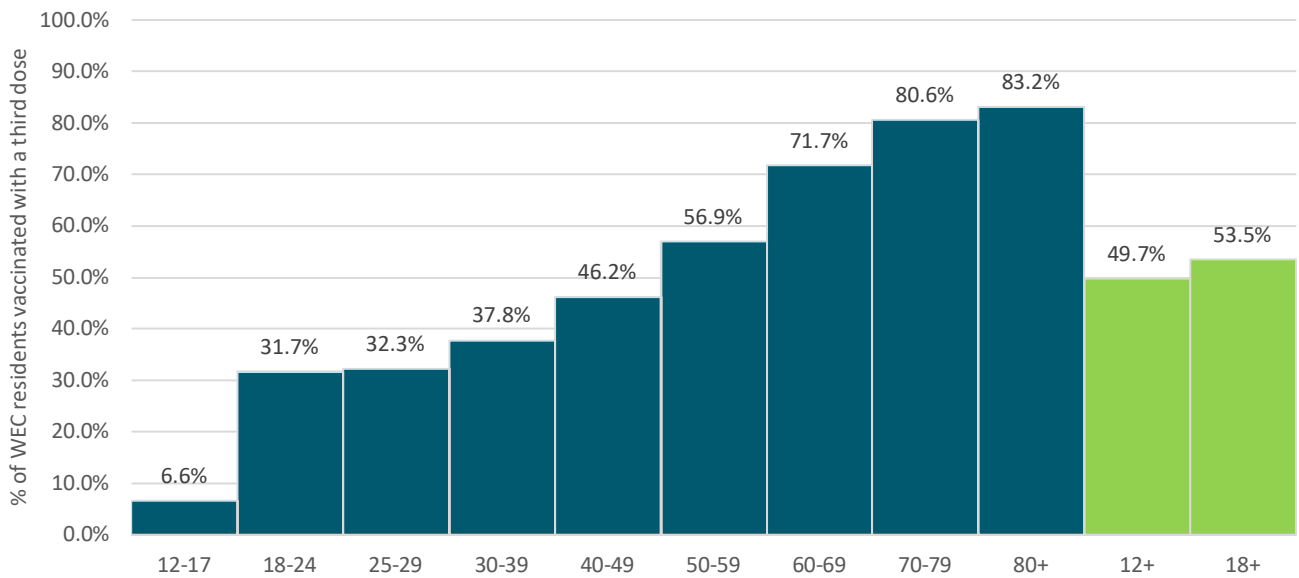


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 1, 2022

### Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 49.7%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (6.6%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (31.7%) and 25-29 age group (32.3%) (**Figure 10**).

**Figure 10:** COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 1, 2022

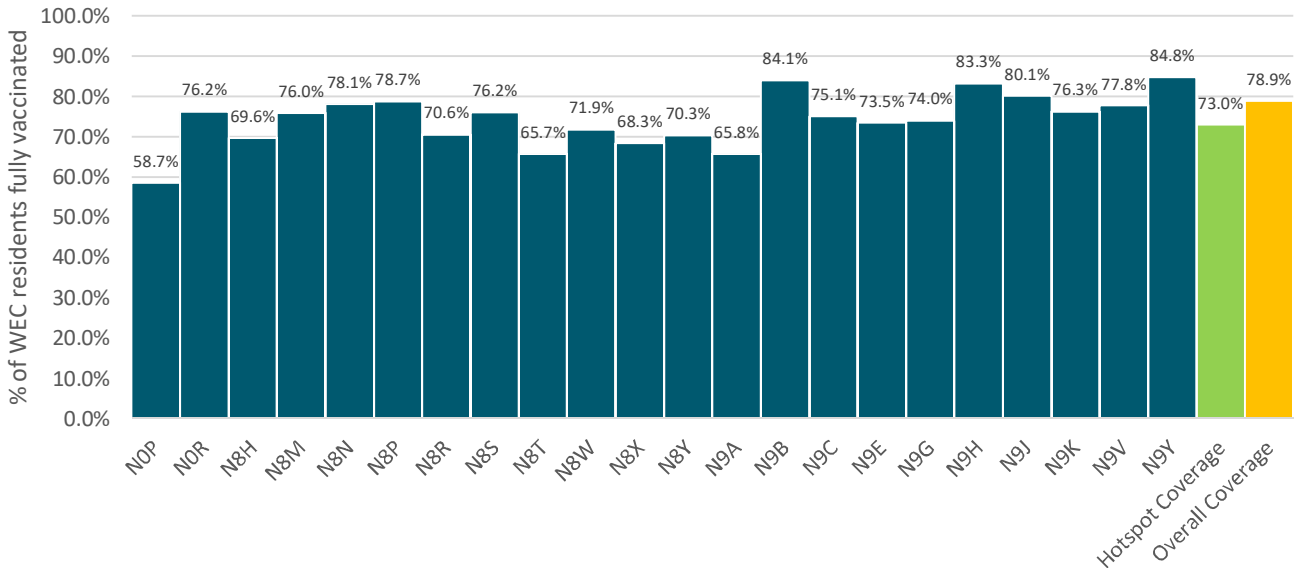


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 1, 2022

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

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 78.9% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.0% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (58.7%), N8T (65.7%) and N9A (65.8%) 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: March 1, 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: March 1, 2022.

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

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