

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

March 9<sup>th</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 28 – March 6, 2022)

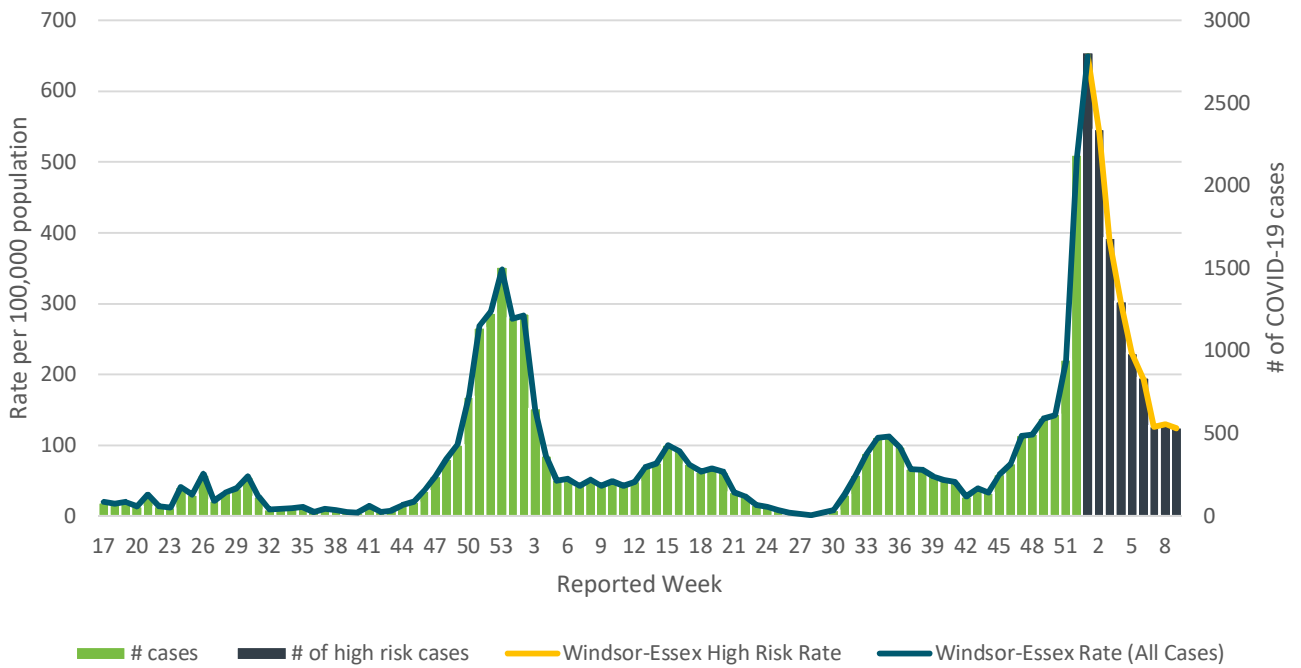
- For the week of February 28 – March 6, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 124.0 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 5.1% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 3.8 percentage points from 11.8% (February 20 - 26, 2022) to 15.6% (February 27 – March 5, 2022).
- Number of in-patient and ICU admissions declined in Windsor-Essex County and Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for the current week (February 28 – March 6, 2022) showed an initial decline followed by a slight increase towards the end of the week.
- Five deaths were reported this week (February 28 – March 6, 2022) compared to three deaths reported during the previous week (February 21 - 27, 2022).
- Two outbreaks were declared during this week (February 28 – March 6, 2022), compared to seven outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 21 - 27, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 50.0% for residents 12 years and older.
  - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (7.4%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (83.3%).

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

#### *Trends*

For the most recent completed week of February 28 – March 6, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 124.0 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (February 21 - 27, 2022; 130.3 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.

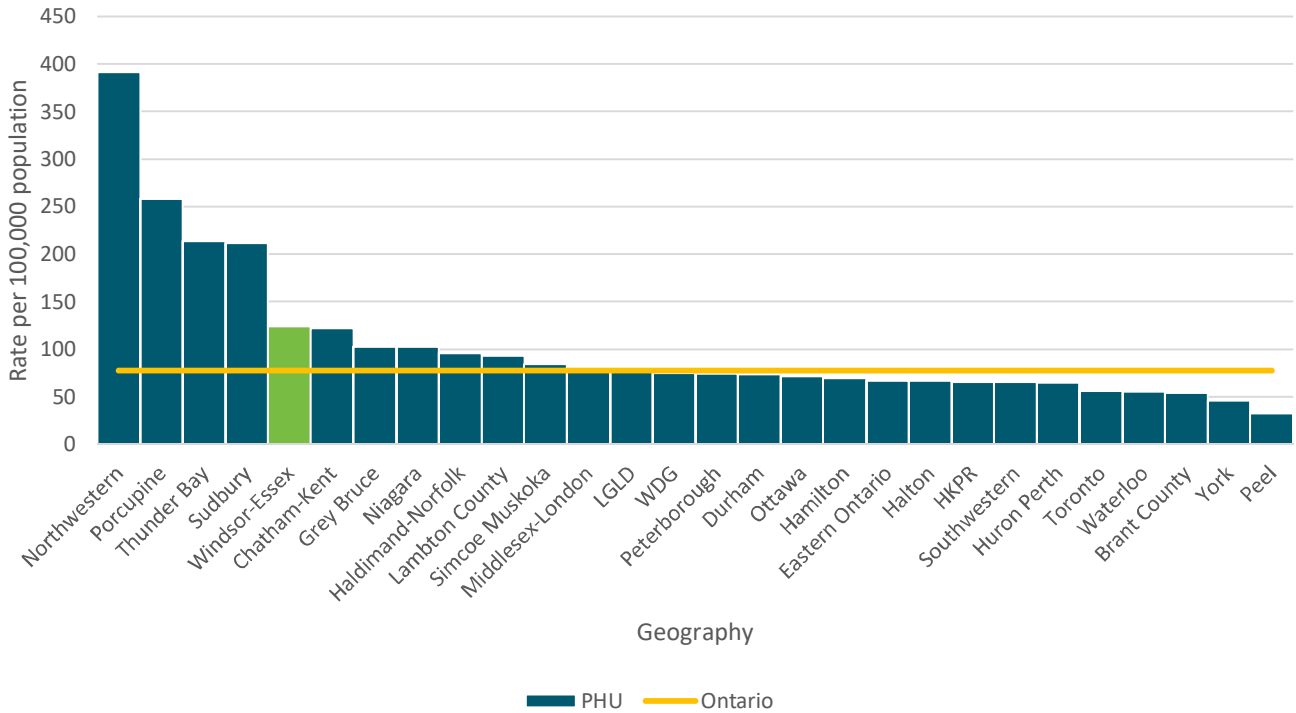
**Figure 1:** Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 9, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [08/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

During the past week (February 28 – March 6, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar trend was observed across other health units across Ontario. Windsor-Essex County has the fifth 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 28- March 6, 2022.

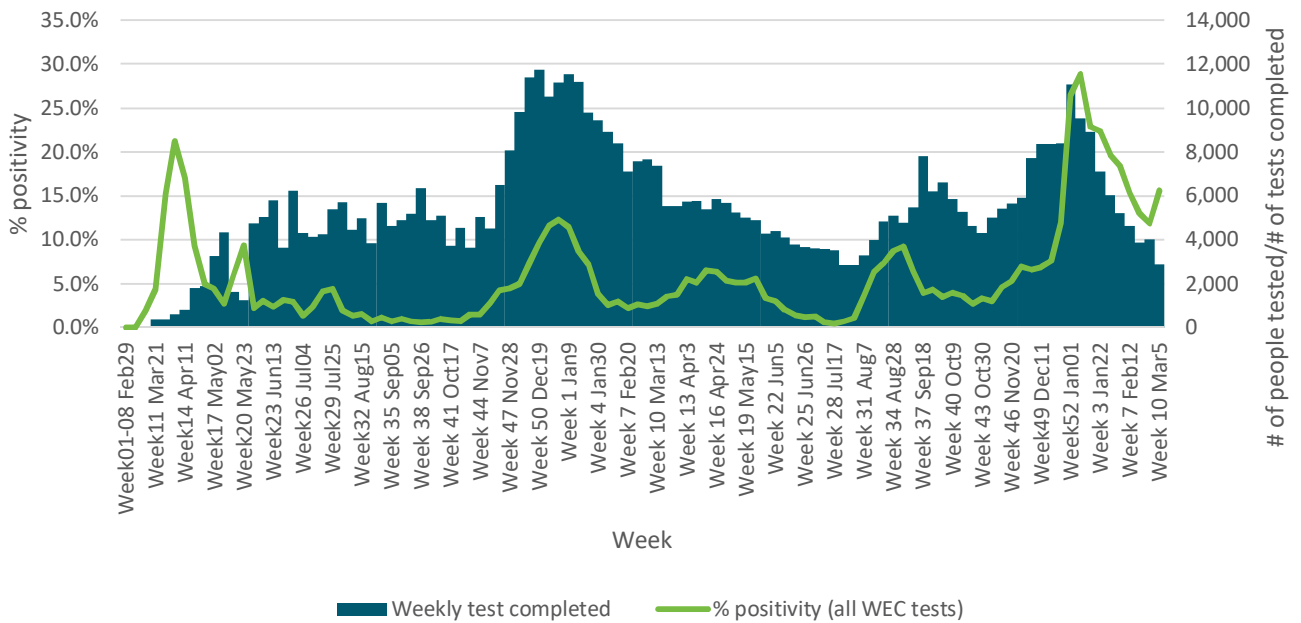


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 8, 2022

*Percent Positivity*

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (February 27 – March 5, 2022) is 15.6%, which is 3.8 percentage points higher than the previous week (11.8%; February 20 - 26, 2022). After peaking in mid-January, there has been a consistent decline in percent positivity since January 2022, although a slight increase was observed during the current week (February 27 – March 5, 2022).

**Figure 3:** Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to March 5, 2022

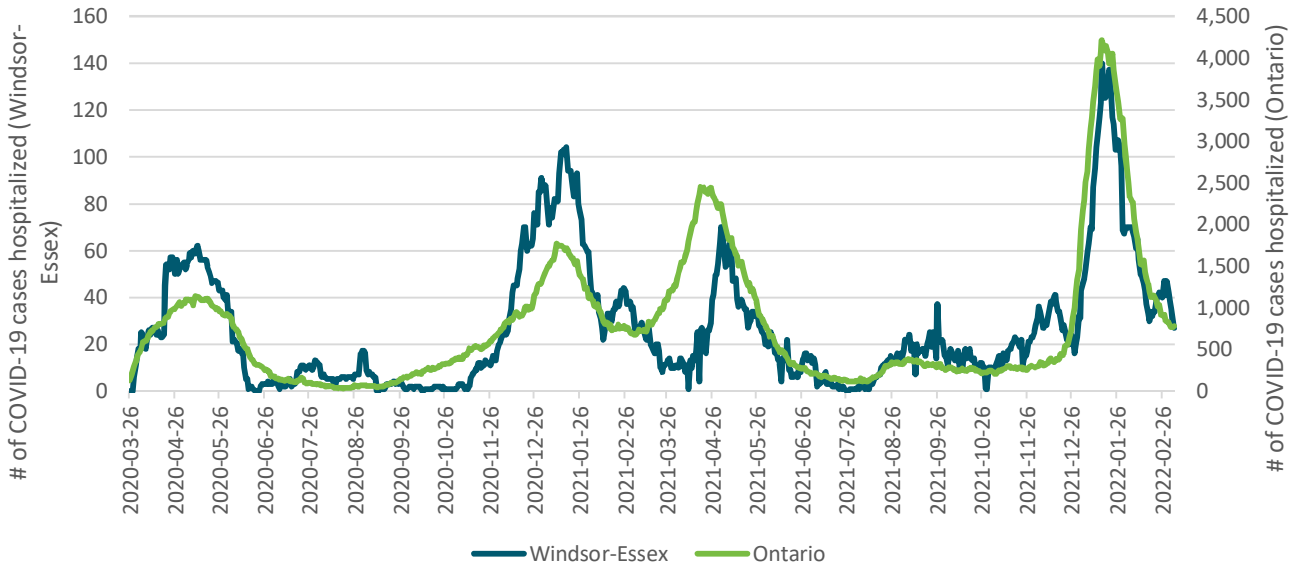


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 8, 2022.

*Hospitalization and ICU Admissions*

For the most recent week (February 28 – March 6, 2022), there have been 27 new hospital admissions compared to 57 new admissions seen during the previous week (February 21 - 27, 2022; **Figure 4**). Four new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU during this week (February 28 – March 6, 2022), which is lower than the number of ICU admissions reported last week (**Figure 5**). Besides some minor fluctuations, the number of hospitalizations have been consistently declining for both Windsor-Essex County and Ontario. A similar trend of declining ICU admissions can be noted for Windsor-Essex County and across Ontario.

**Figure 4:** Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – March 6, 2022



**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 8, 2022.

**Figure 5:** Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – March 6, 2022



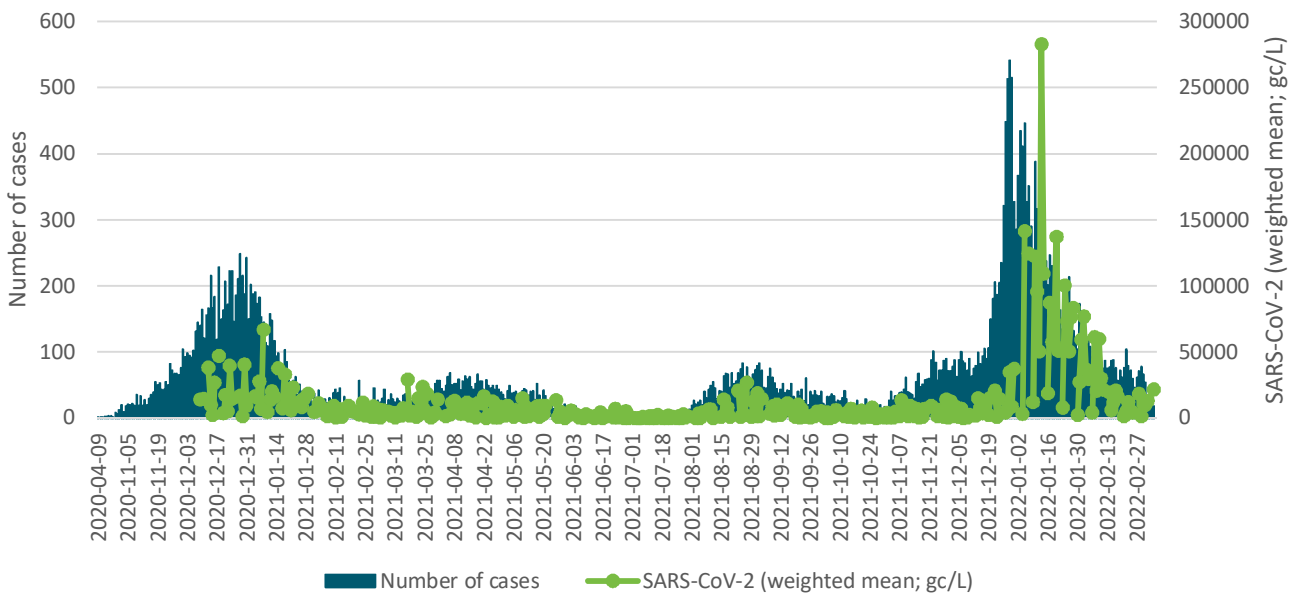
**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 8, 2022.

### 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 28 – March 6, 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 – March 6, 2022

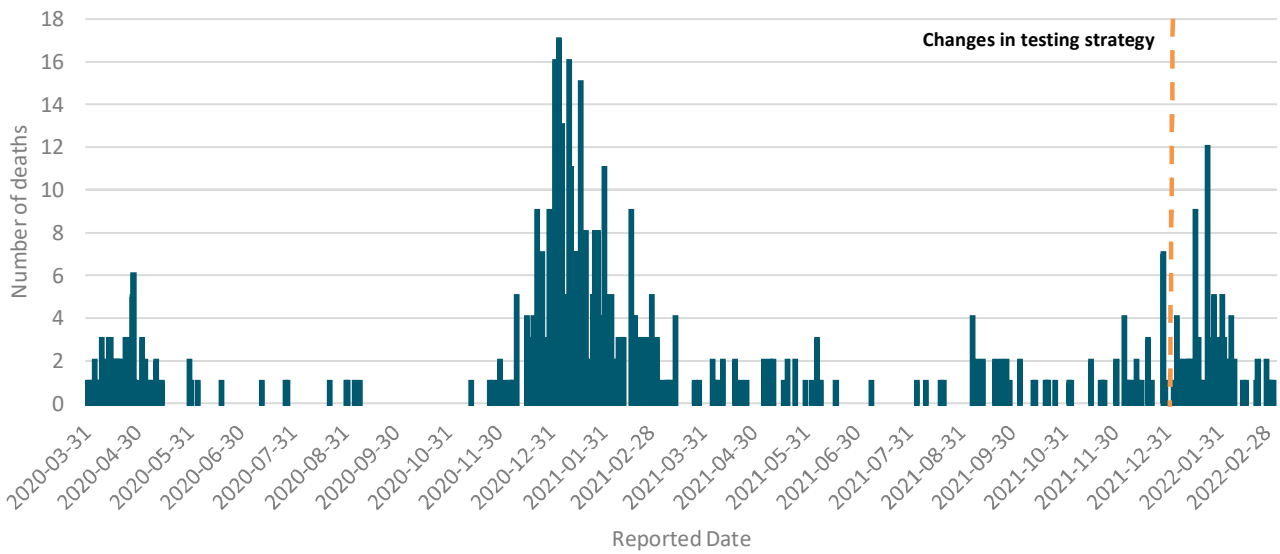


**Source:** Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on March 8, 2022.

*Deaths*

As of March 6, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 582 COVID-19 related deaths. Five deaths were reported during the current week (February 28 – March 6, 2022; **Figure 7**) compared to three deaths reported during the previous week (February 21 - 27, 2022).

**Figure 7:** Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – March 6, 2022.

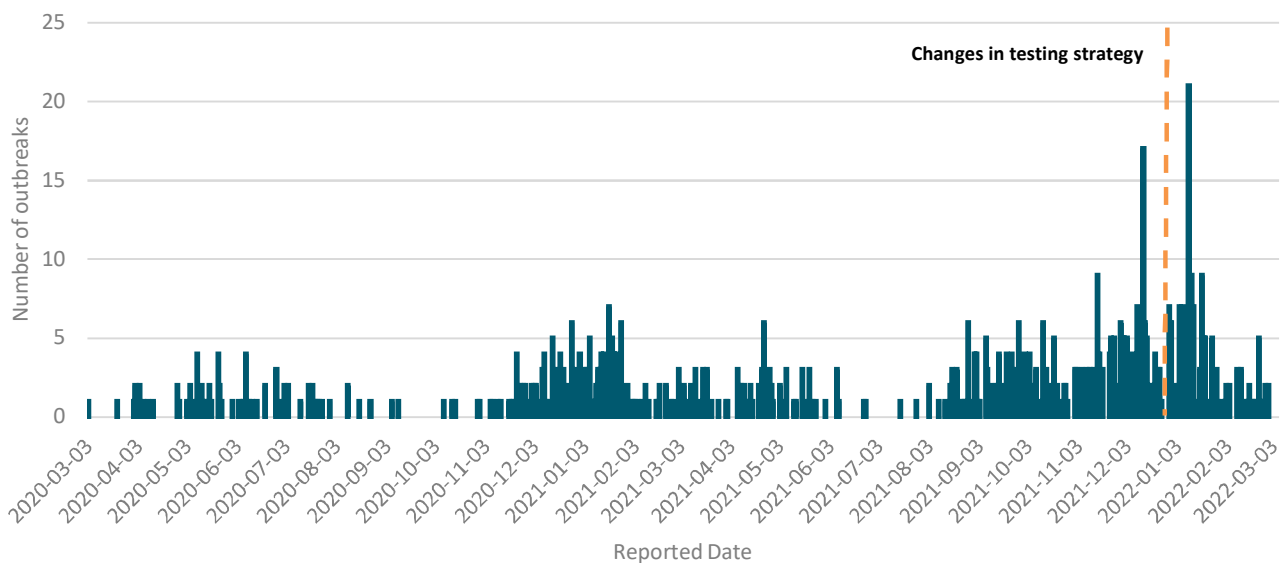


**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [08/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

## Outbreaks

As of March 6, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 13 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Two outbreaks were declared during the current week (February 28 – March 6, 2022) compared to seven outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 21 – 27, 2022). 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 – March 6, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [08/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

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



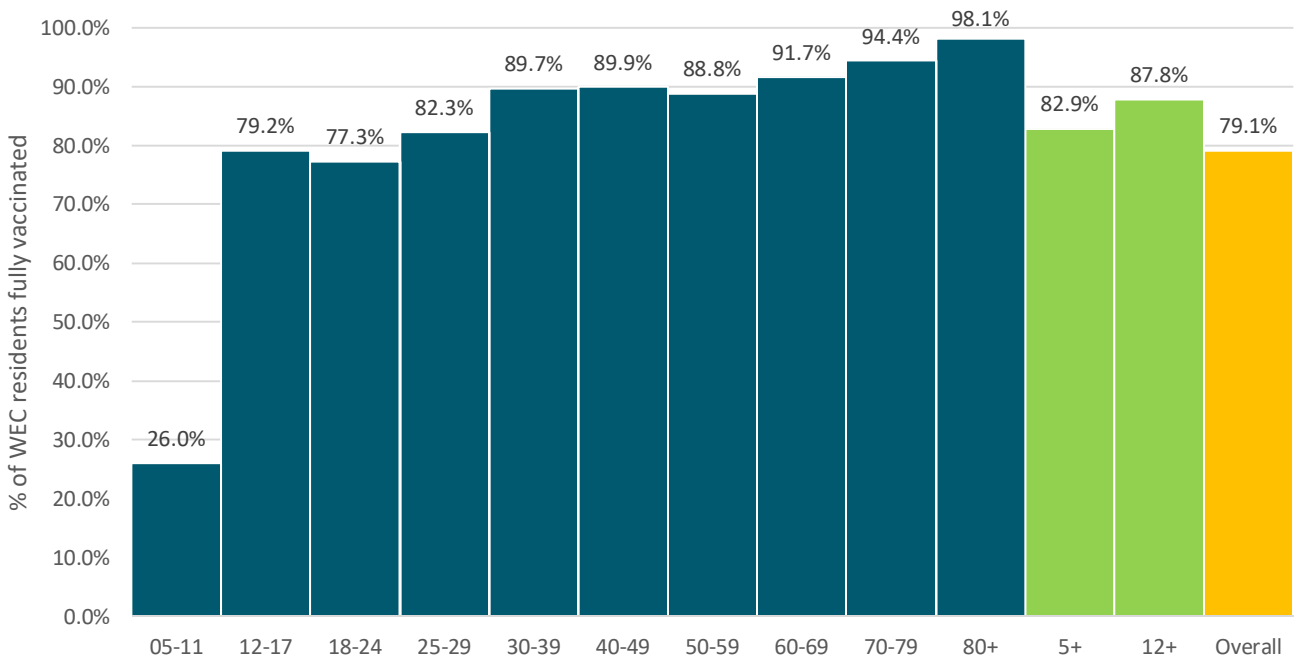
**COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County**

Over 1,608 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 9 (February 28 to March 6, 2022) compared to 2,744 doses in week 8 (February 21 to February 27, 2022). This represents a 41.4% 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 (26.0%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (77.3%) and 12-17 age group (79.2%) (**Figure 9**).

**Figure 9:** COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 8, 2022

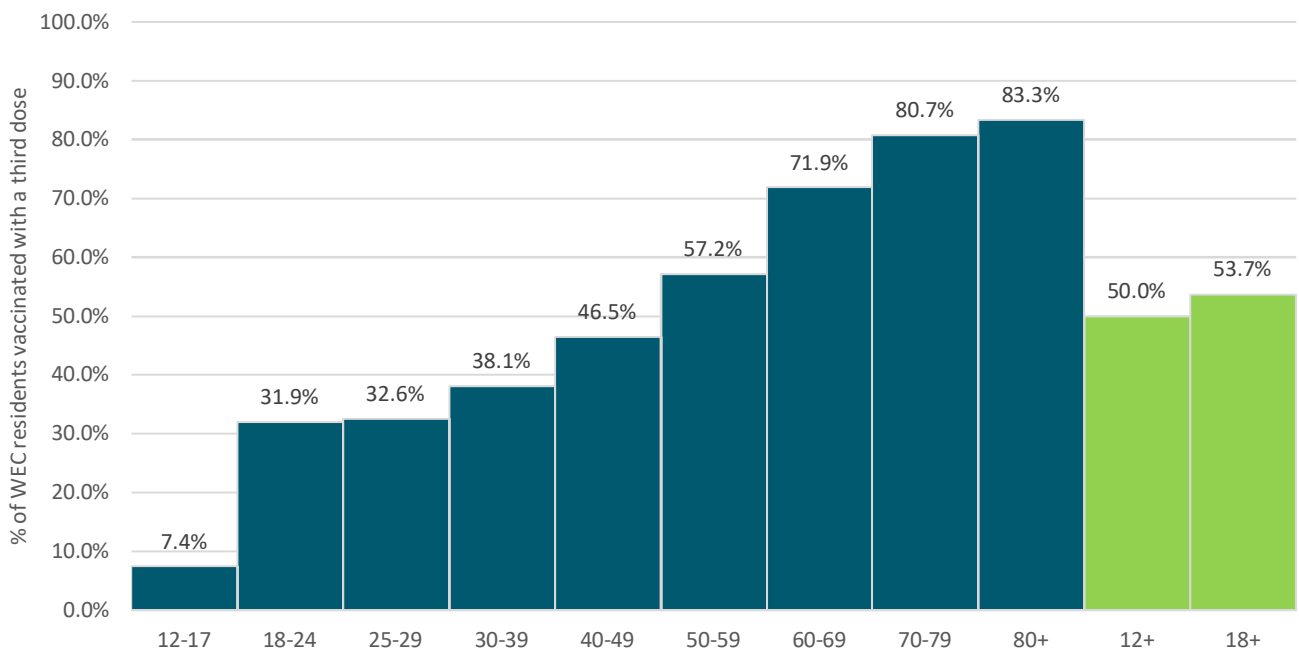


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 8, 2022

### Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 50.0%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (7.4%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (31.9%) and 25-29 age group (32.6%) (**Figure 10**).

**Figure 10:** COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 8, 2022

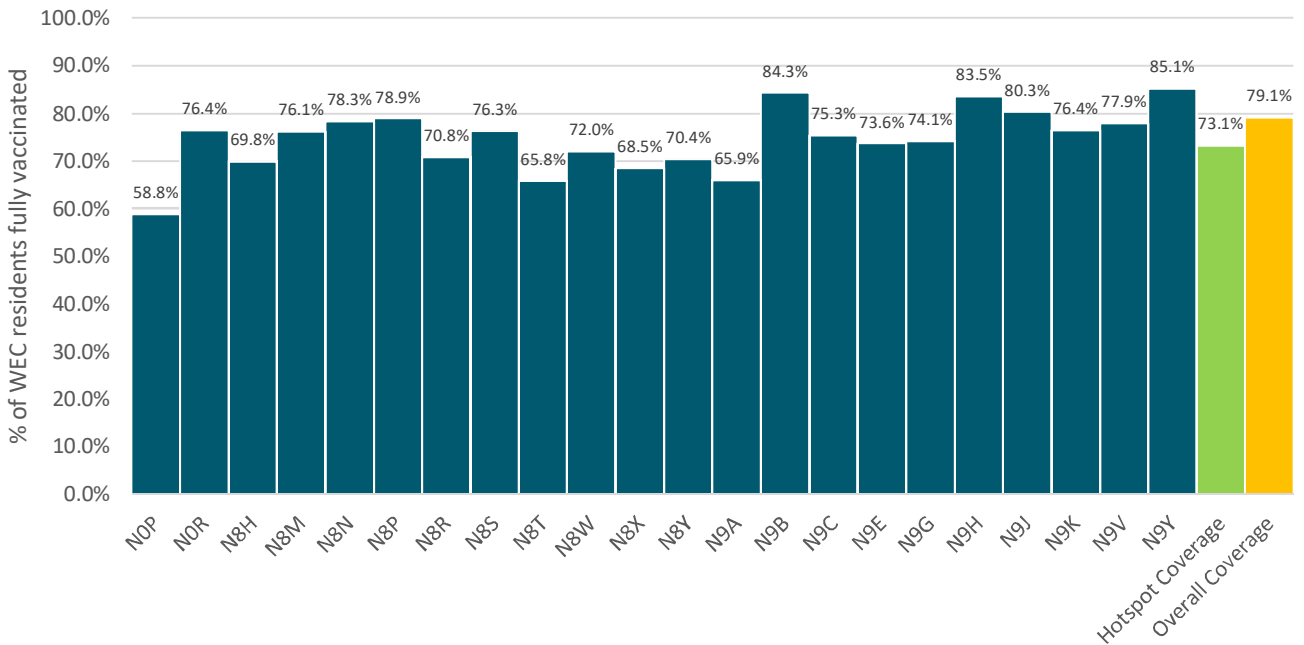


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 8, 2022

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

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 79.1% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.1% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (58.8%), N8T (65.8%) and N9A (65.9%) 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 8, 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 8, 2022

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

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