

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiologic Update

January 27th, 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 dashboard are an underestimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 in Windsor-Essex 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 January 17 - 23, 2022)

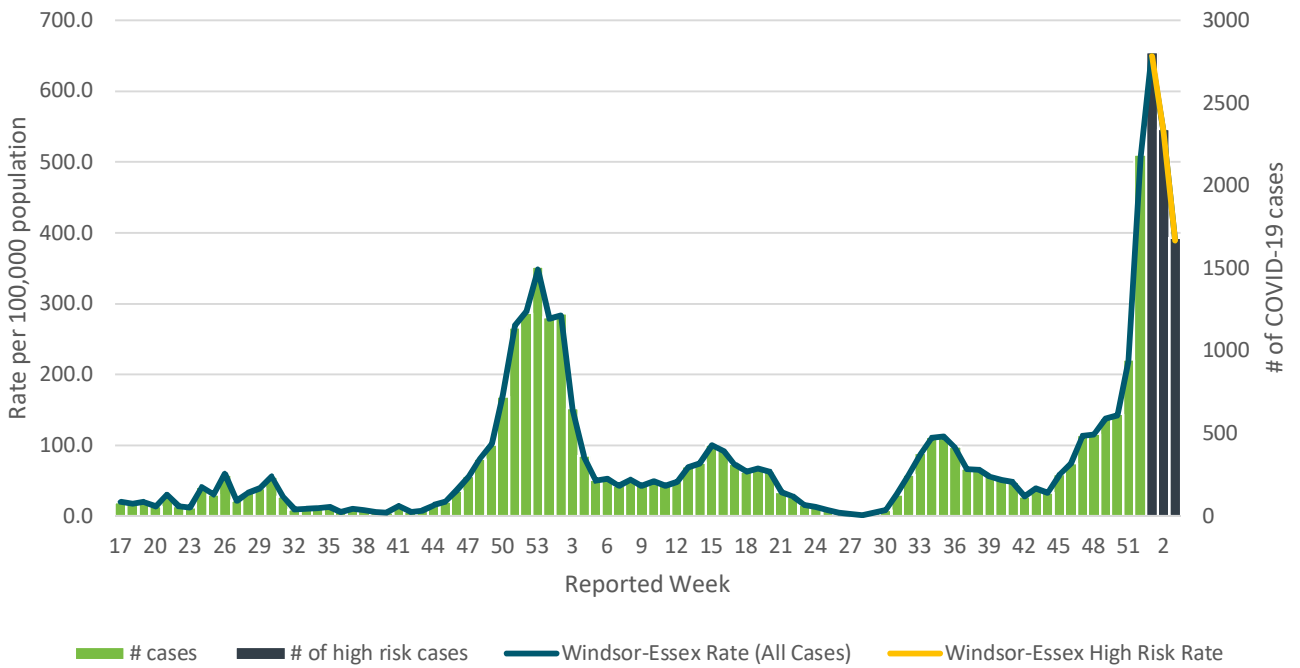
- For the week of January 17 - 23, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 389.2 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 32.7% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 0.3% percentage points from 22.9% (January 10 - 16, 2022) to 23.2% (January 17 - 23, 2022).
- Hospitalizations decreased locally and across Ontario.
 - For ICU admissions, a decline was observed for Windsor-Essex and a slight increase was reported across Ontario.
- Wastewater surveillance showed an increase in viral signals of COVID-19 towards the end of the week (January 21, 2022) after a decline was observed for the previous days.
- 16 deaths were reported this week (January 17 – 23, 2022) compared to 7 deaths reported last week (January 10 – 16, 2022).

COVID-19 Cases in Windsor-Essex County

Trends

For the most completed week January 17 - 23, 2022, the high risk case rate was 389.2 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (January 10 - 16, 2022; 541.6 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a decrease in case rate has been observed, which is likely an underestimate due to limited testing.

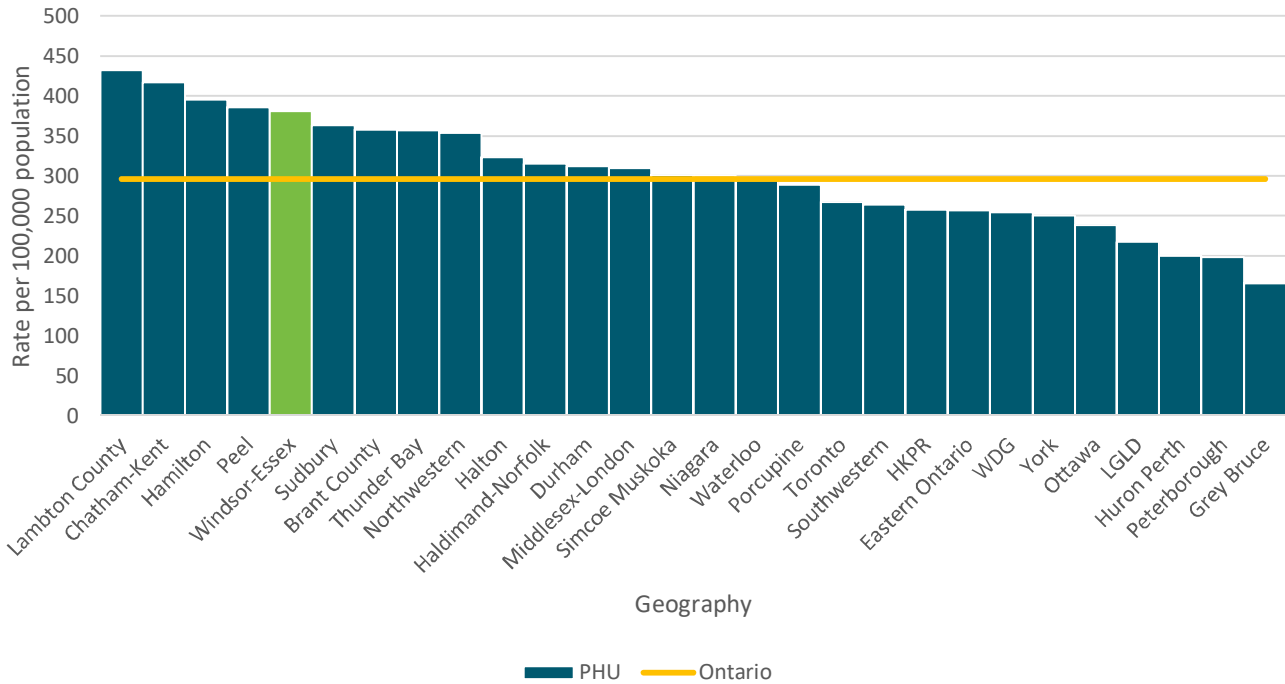
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 3, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [25/Jan/2021] at 2:00 pm.

During the past week (January 17 - 23, 2022), the *high-risk* case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar trend can be observed across all other health units. Windsor-Essex 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.

Figure 2: Weekly COVID-19 high-risk case rates across health units in Ontario: January 17 – January 23, 2022.

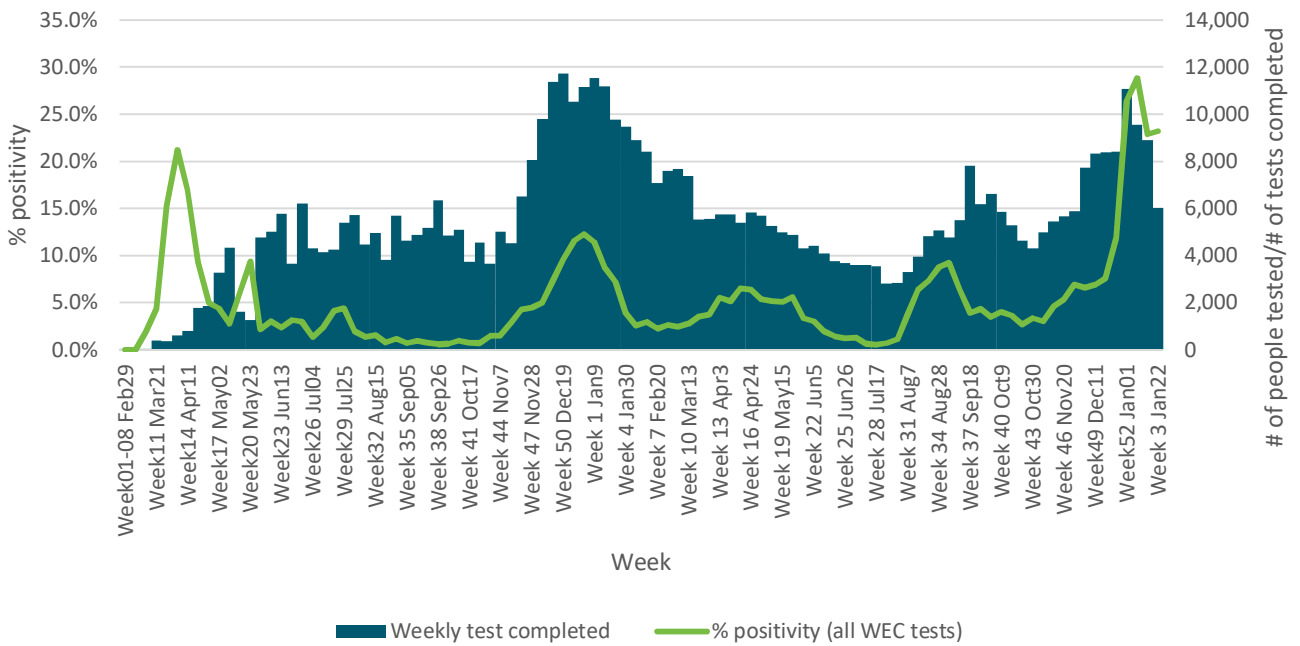


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 25, 2022

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (January 17 - 23, 2022) is 23.2%, an increase of 0.3% compared to the previous week (22.9%; January 10 - 16, 2022). After a sharp increase since mid-December, a decline was observed the previous week (January 10 - 16, 2022), followed by a slight increase during the current week.

Figure 3: Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29 to January 22, 2022

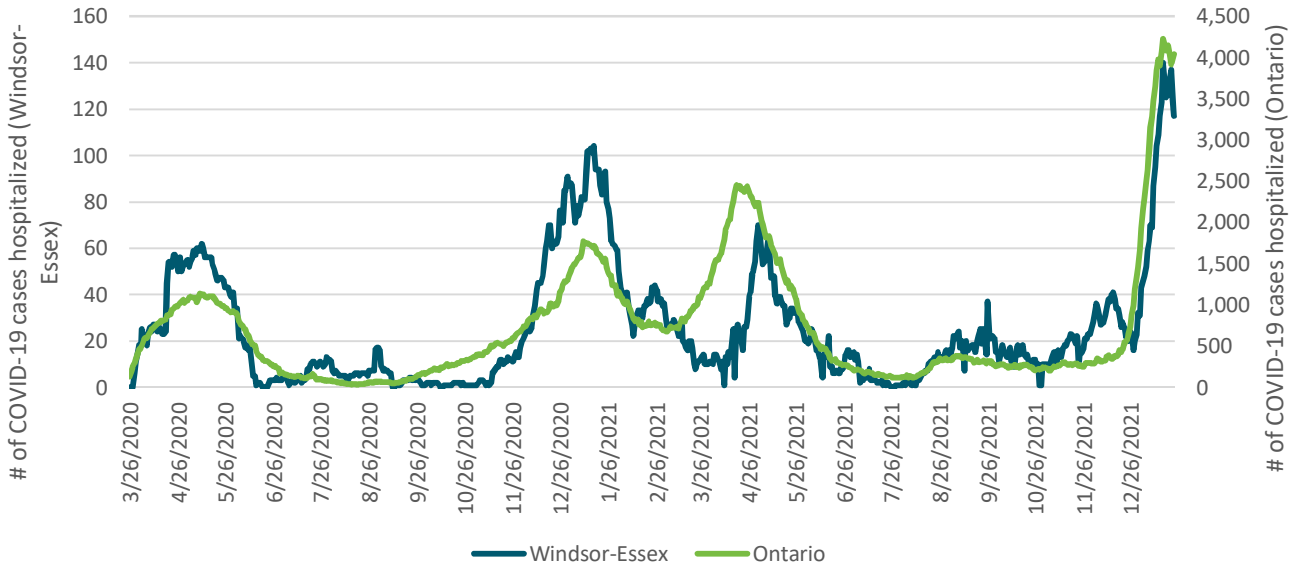


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 25, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

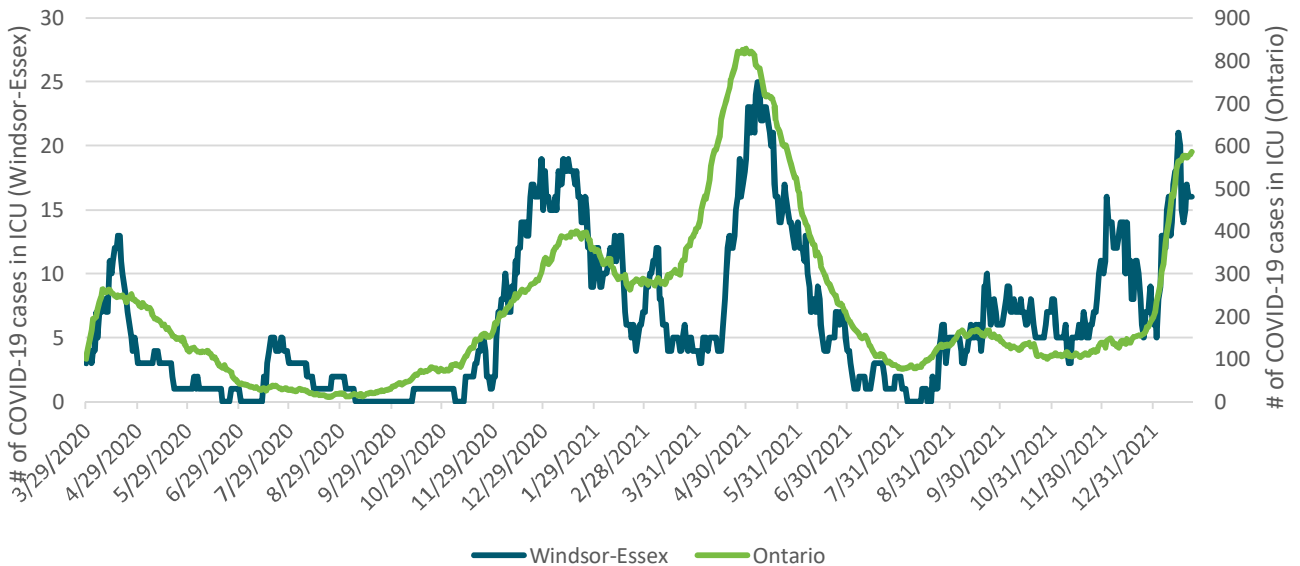
For the most recent week (January 17 - 23, 2022), there have been 103 new hospital admissions compared to 135 new admissions seen during the previous week (January 10 – 16, 2022; **Figure 4**). There were 7 new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU for this week (January 17 - 23, 2022), a decrease of 10 compared to the number of ICU admissions reported last week (**Figure 5**). After consistent increase for the past three weeks, a decreasing trend in ICU admissions was observed for Ontario.

Figure 4: Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – January 23, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 25, 2022.

Figure 5: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – January 23, 2022



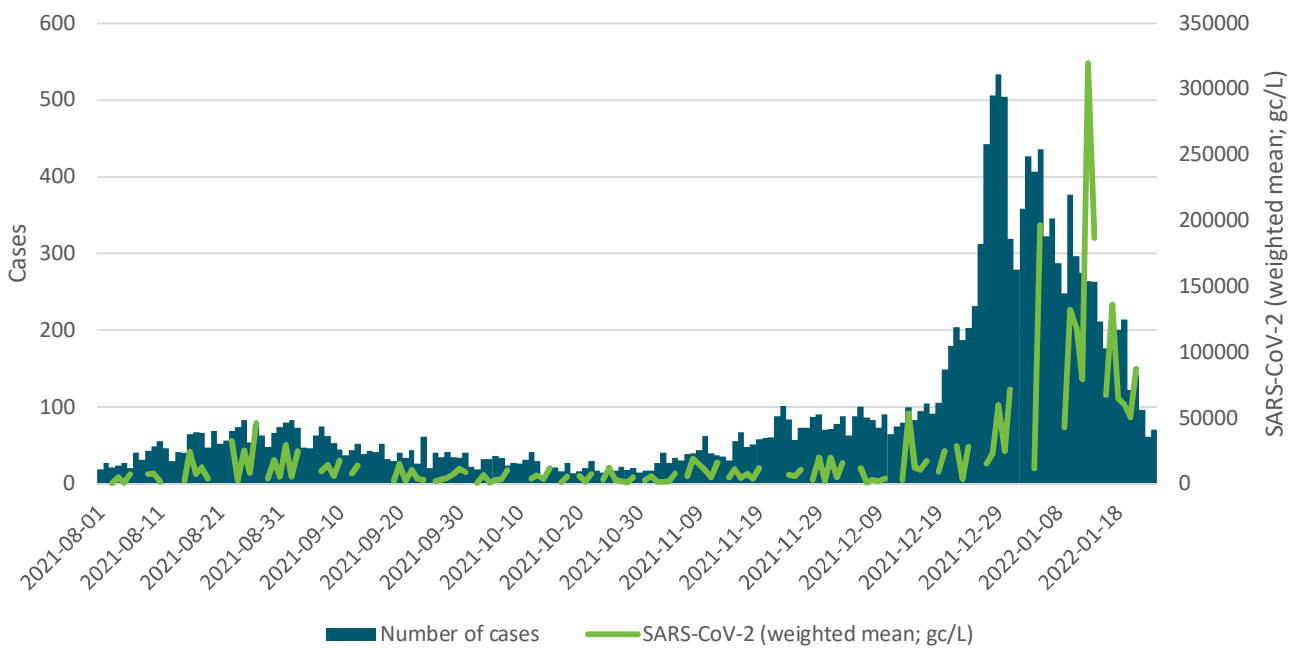
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 25, 2022.

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 (January 17 – 23, 2022), we observed a decrease during the initial four days followed by a spike towards the end (Figure 6).

Figure 6: COVID-19 wastewater viral signal in Windsor-Essex County: August 1, 2021 – January 21, 2022

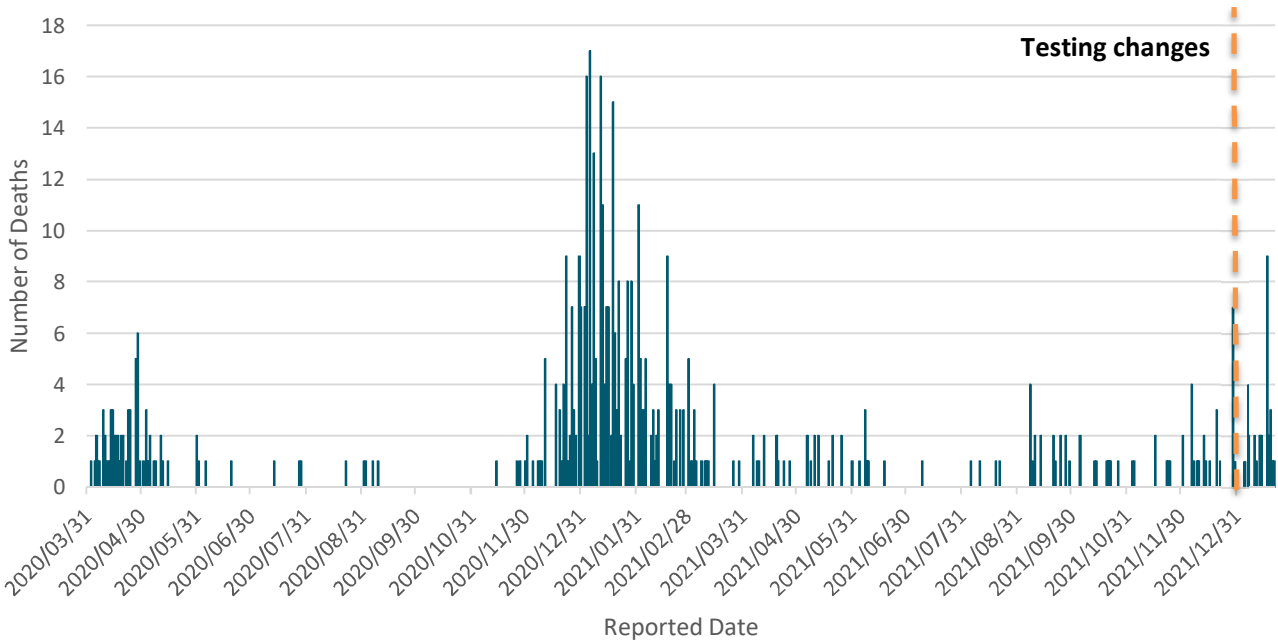


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on January 25, 2022

Deaths

As of January 23, 2022, Windsor- Essex has reported a total of 526 COVID-19 related deaths with 16 deaths reported during the past week (January 17 – 23, 2022; **Figure 7**).

Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – January 23, 2022



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [25/Jan/2022] at 2:00 pm.

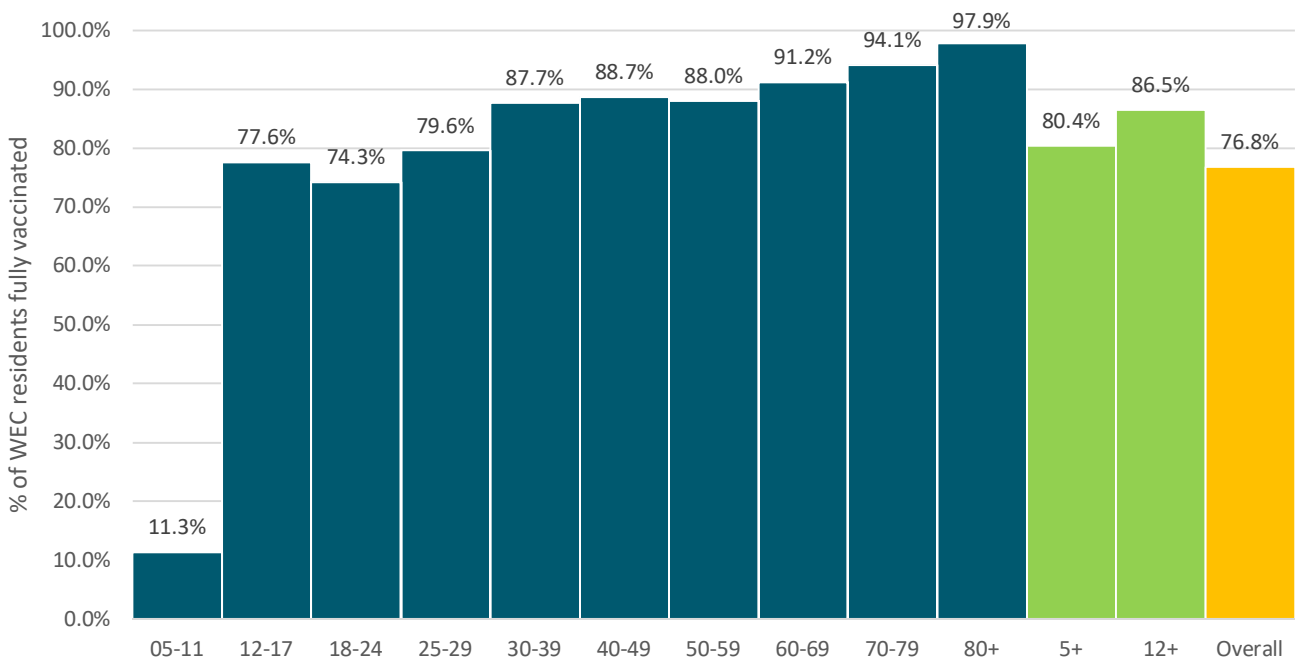
For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>

COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rates by Age Group

Over 10,342 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 3 (January 17 to January 23) compared to 19,308 doses in week 2 (January 10 to January 16). This represents a 46.4% decrease between the two weeks. Overall, the 5-11 age group has the lowest coverage rate for two vaccines (11.3%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (74.3%) and 12-17 age group (77.6%; **Figure 8**).

Figure 8: COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by age group in Windsor-Essex County: January 25, 2022

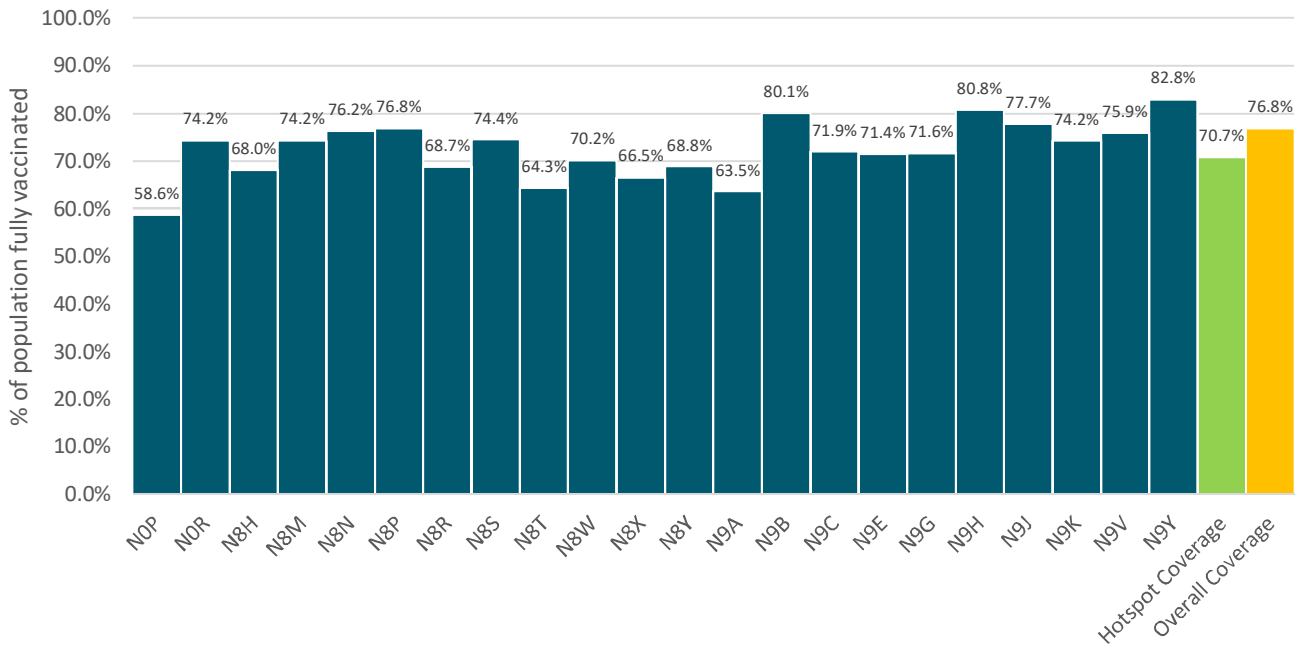


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: January 25, 2022

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate of all residents in Windsor-Essex, including children less than four years of age, is 76.8% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 70.7% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (58.6%), N9A (63.5%) and N8T (64.3%) have the lowest coverage rates in WEC. **(Figure 9).**

Figure 9: COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor-Essex County: January 25, 2022



Note: Coverage rates by FSA include all Windsor-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: January 25, 2022

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

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