

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

February 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 January 31 – February 6, 2022)

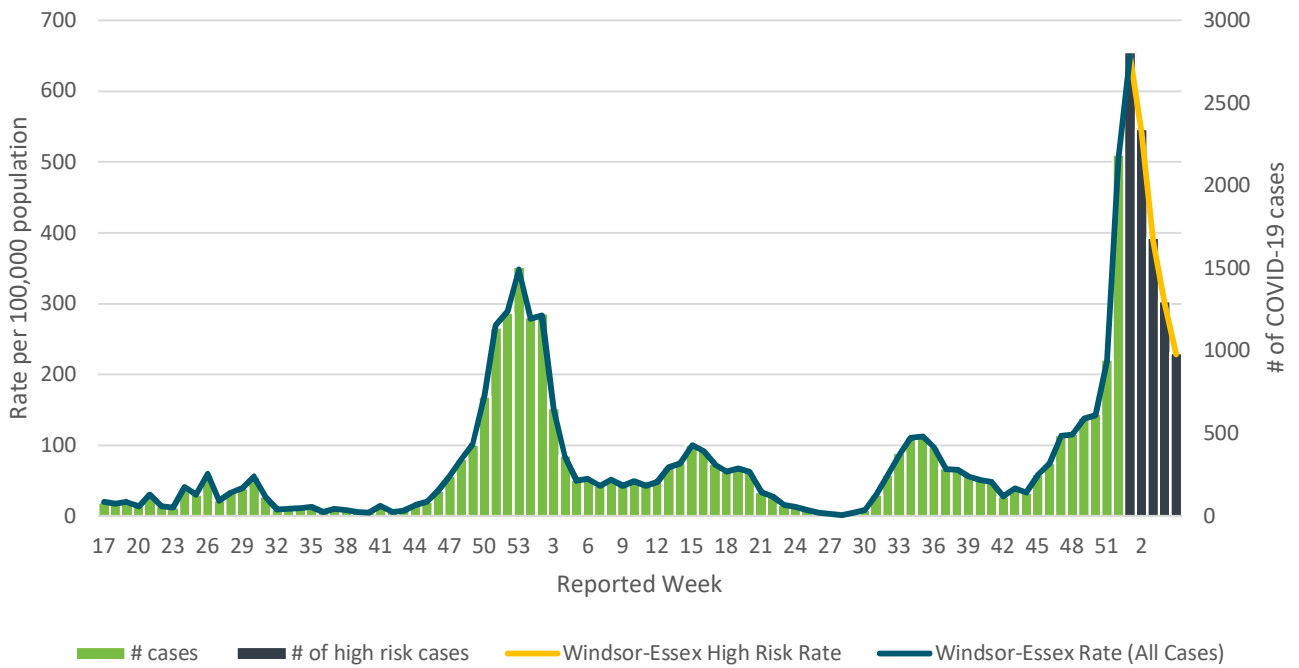
- For the week of January 31 – February 6, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 228.1 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 27.5% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity decreased by 0.5 percentage points from 19.6% (January 23 - 29, 2022) to 19.1% (January 30 – February 5, 2022).
- Hospitalizations decreased locally and across Ontario.
  - For ICU admissions, a continued decline was observed for Ontario but a slight increase was reported for Windsor-Essex County.
- Wastewater viral signals for the current week (January 31 – February 6, 2022) showed a moderate increase followed by a decline towards the end of the week.
- During the current week (January 31 – February 6, 2022), 78.6% of confirmed COVID-19 cases were symptomatic and 21.4% cases were asymptomatic.
  - Among the symptomatic cases, cough, nasal congestion, headache, sore throat and fatigue/malaise were the most commonly reported symptoms.
- 17 deaths were reported this week (January 31 – February 6, 2022) compared to 21 deaths reported during the last week (January 24 - 30, 2022).
- Compared to 12 outbreaks declared during the previous week (January 24 – 30, 2022), only six outbreaks were declared this week (January 31 – February 6, 2022).

### COVID-19 Cases in Windsor-Essex County

#### *Trends*

For the most recent completed week of January 31 – February 6, 2022, the high risk case rate was 228.1 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (January 24 - 30, 2022; 300.8 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.

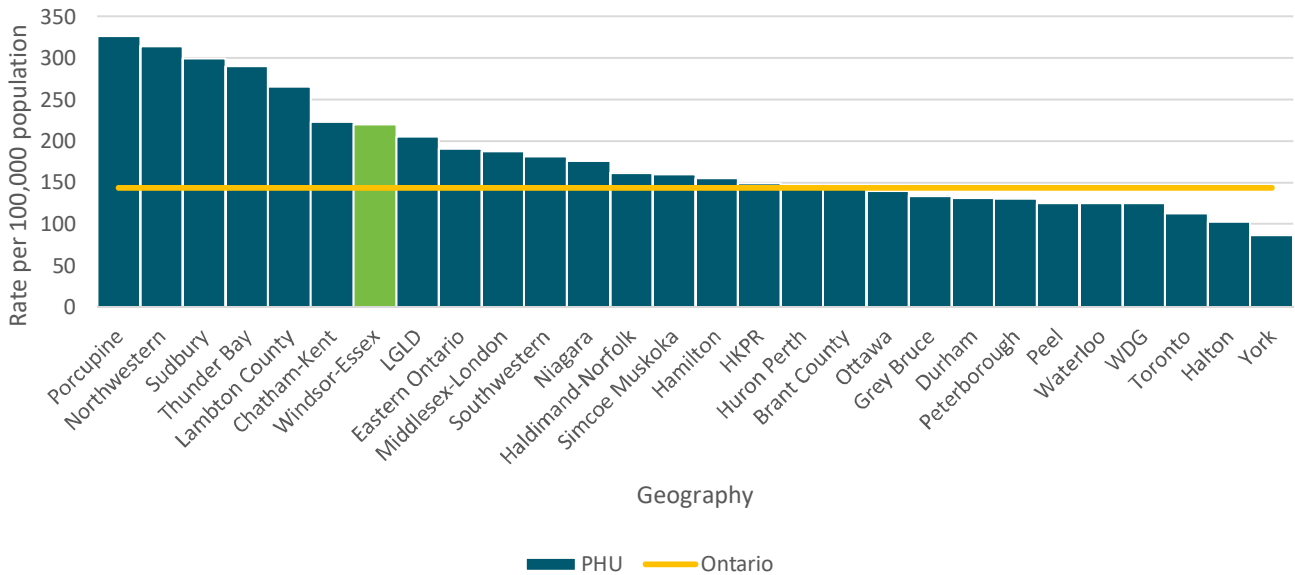
**Figure 1:** Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 5, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [08/Feb/2021] at 9:30 am.

During the past week (January 31 – February 6, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar trend can be observed across all other health units except Porcupine Health Unit where an increase in case rate was reported. Windsor-Essex County has the seventh 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: January 31– February 6, 2022.

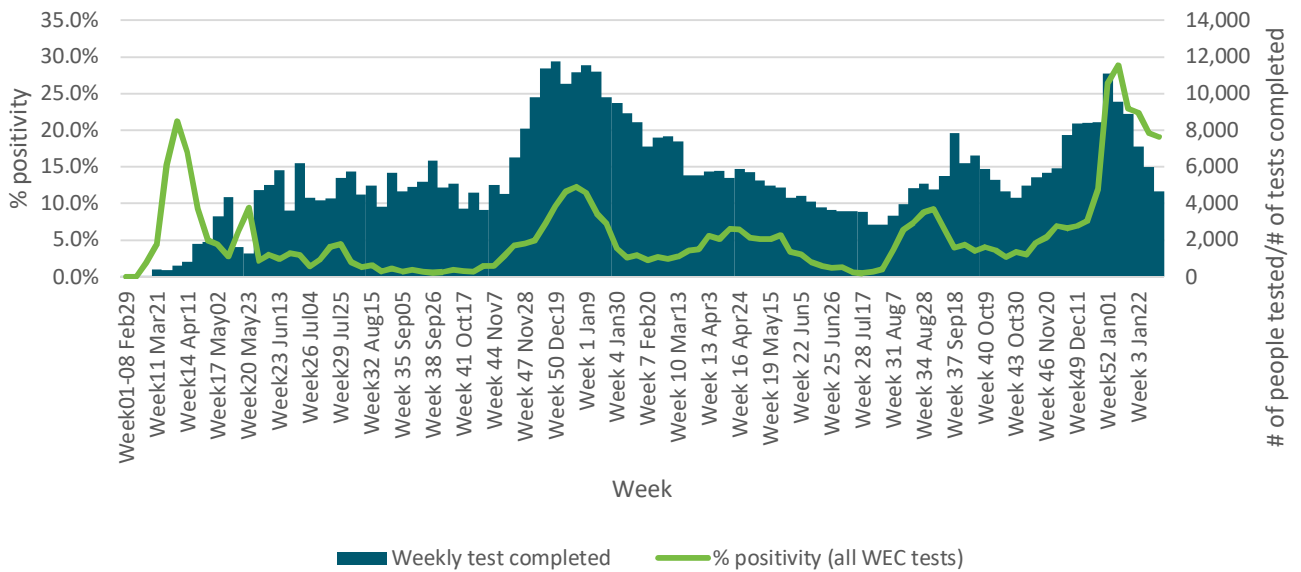


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 8, 2022

*Percent Positivity*

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (January 30 – February 5, 2022) is 19.1%, a decrease of 0.5% compared to the previous week (19.6%; January 23 - 29, 2022). Since January, 2022, there has been a consistent decline in percent positivity after a sharp increase was observed during mid December, 2021.

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

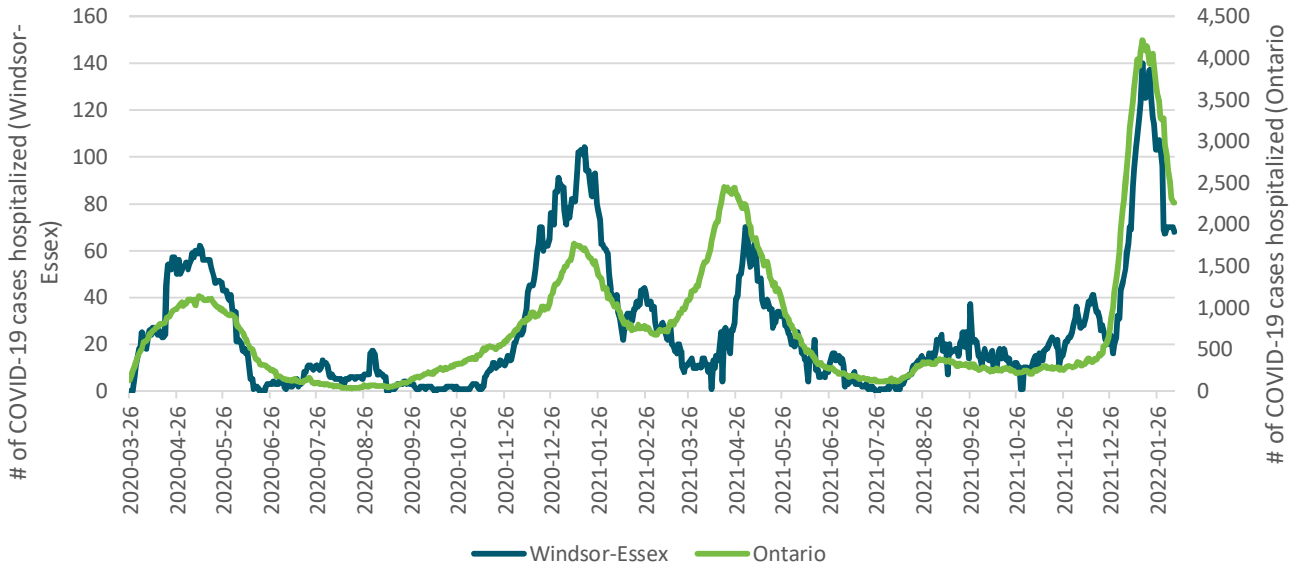


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 8, 2022.

### *Hospitalization and ICU Admissions*

For the most recent week (January 31 – February 6, 2022), there have been 84 new hospital admissions compared to 86 new admissions seen during the previous week (January 24 – 30, 2022; **Figure 4**). Seven new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU during this week (January 31 – February 6, 2022), an increase of three compared 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. While the decreasing trend for the number of ICU admissions continued across Ontario, a slight increase in ICU admissions was observed for Windsor-Essex County this past week.

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



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

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



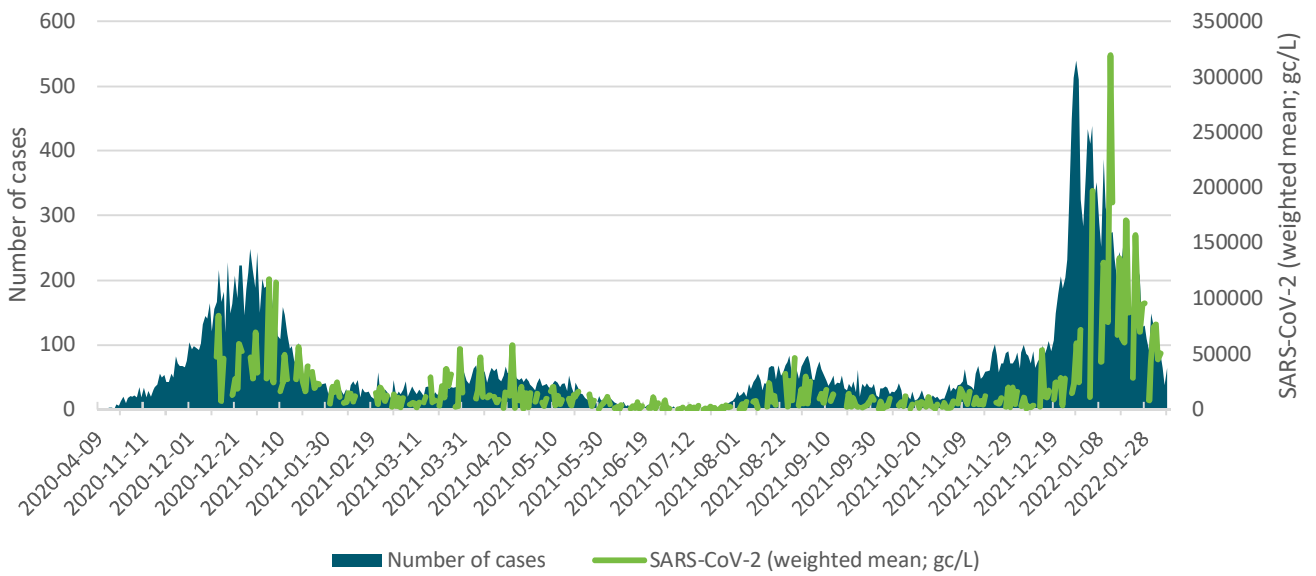
**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 8, 2022.

*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 previous week (January 24 – 30, 2022), a decrease in signal intensity was observed towards the end of the week (Figure 6). This was followed by a moderate increase and a decline in viral signal towards the end of the current week (January 30 – February 6, 2022).

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

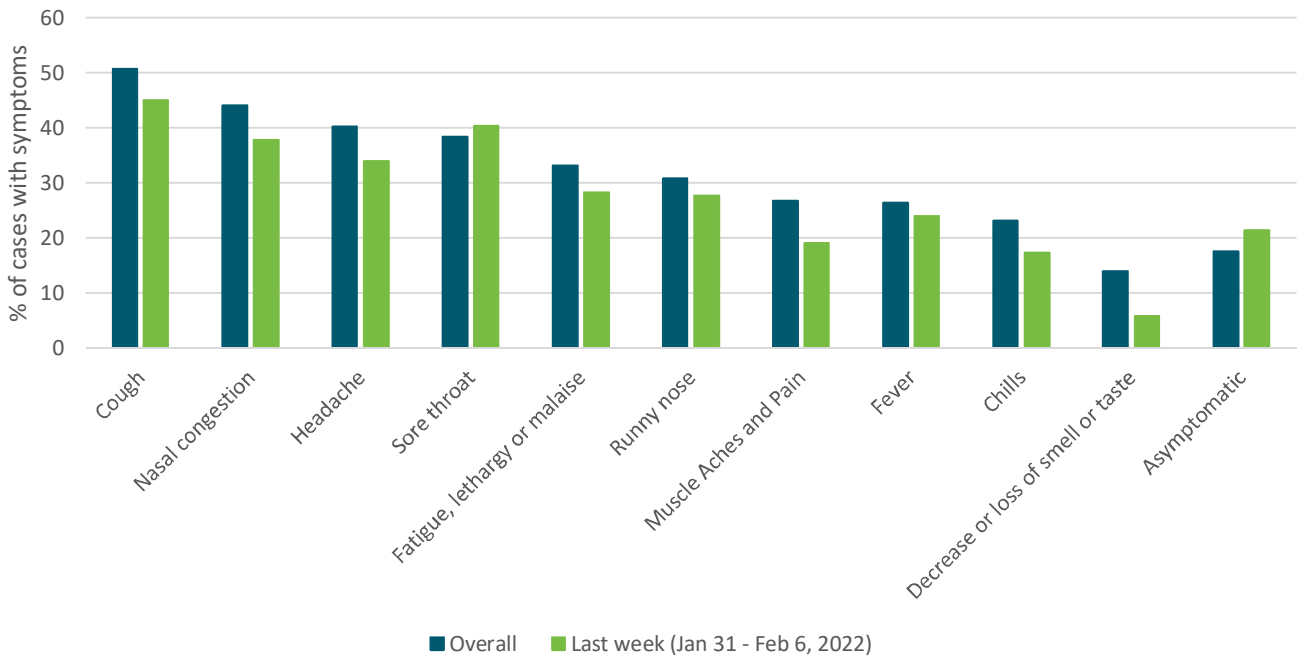


**Source:** Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on February 8, 2022.

*Symptoms*

**Figure 7** compares the symptomatology of confirmed COVID-19 cases overall (December 1, 2021 to February 6, 2022) to those observed during the past week (January 31 – February 6, 2022). A total of 10,713 confirmed cases were reported overall, of which 82.4% (n = 8,828) were symptomatic and 17.6% (n = 1,885) were asymptomatic. Among the symptomatic cases, cough, headache, nasal congestion, sore throat and fatigue/lethargy were the most commonly reported symptoms. During the past week (January 31 – February 6, 2022), 817 confirmed COVID-19 high-risk cases were reported, of which 78.6% (n = 642) were symptomatic and 21.4% (n = 175) were asymptomatic. Compared to the overall proportion of symptoms, sore throat was more commonly reported whereas loss of smell/taste was less commonly reported during the past week. A slightly higher proportion of asymptomatic cases (21%; January 31 – February 6, 2022) were reported during the past week compared to the overall proportion of asymptomatic cases (18%; December 1, 2021 – February 6, 2022).

**Figure 7:** Prevalence of symptoms among confirmed COVID-19 cases, Windsor-Essex County: December 1, 2021 – February 6, 2022



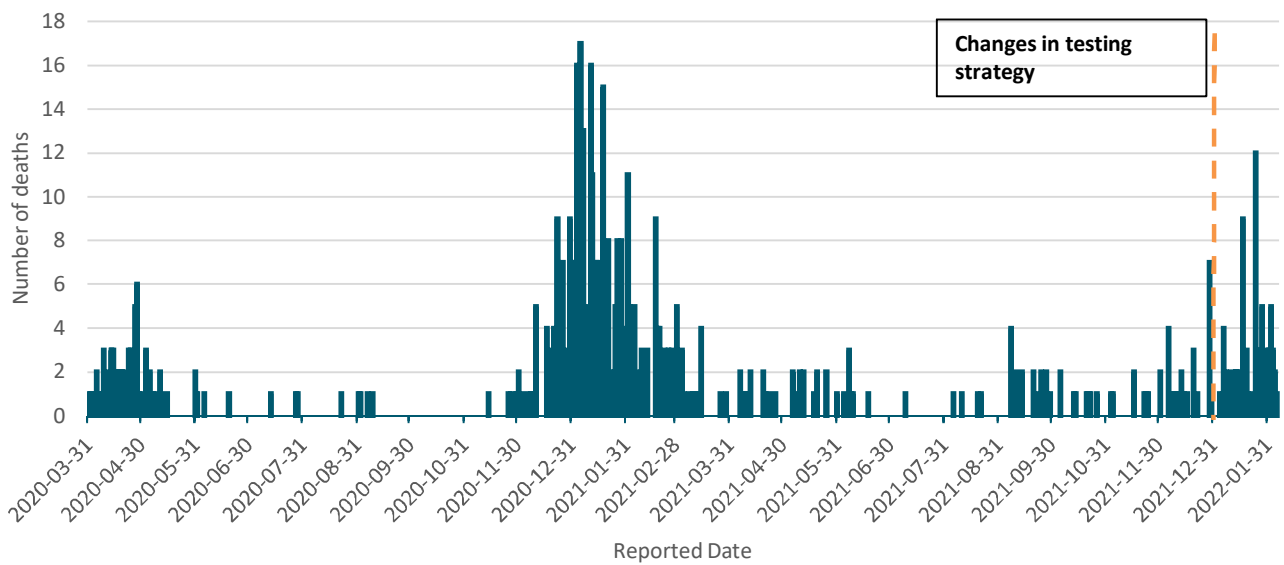
**Note:** Cases can report more than one symptom. As a result, percentages will not add up to 100%

**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [08/Feb/2022] at 9:00 am.

## Deaths

As of February 6, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 565 COVID-19 related deaths with 17 deaths reported during the current week (January 31 – February 6, 2022; **Figure 8**) compared to 21 deaths reported during the previous week (January 24 – 30, 2022).

**Figure 8:** Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – February 6, 2022

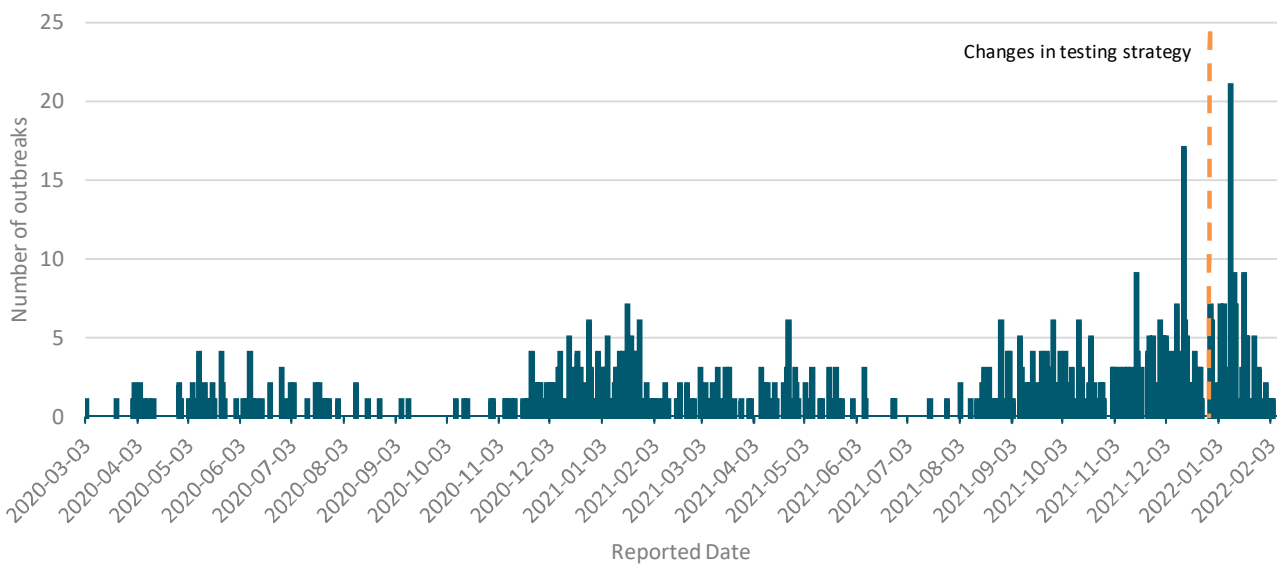




*Outbreaks*

As of February 6, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 62 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Six new outbreaks were declared during the current week (January 31 – February 6, 2022; **Figure 9**) compared to the 12 outbreaks declared during the previous week (January 24 – 30, 2022). Due to the changes in testing strategy focussing 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 9:** Number of confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks declared by Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – February 6, 2022.



**Source:** Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [08/Feb/2022] at 9:00 am.

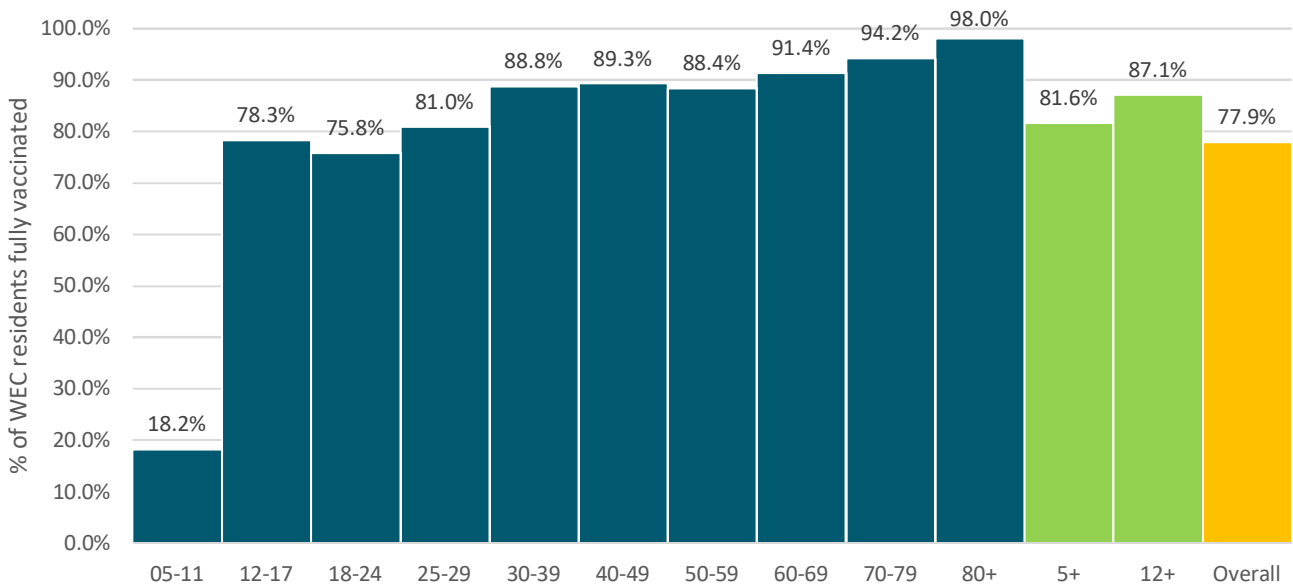
For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>

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

### Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rates by Age Group

Over 4,273 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 5 (January 31 to February 6) compared to 7,140 doses in week 4 (January 24 to January 30). This represents a 40.2% decrease between the two weeks. Overall, the 5-11 age group has the lowest coverage rate for two vaccines (18.2%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (75.8%) and 12-17 age group (78.3%; **Figure 10**).

**Figure 10:** COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by age group in Windsor-Essex County: February 8, 2022

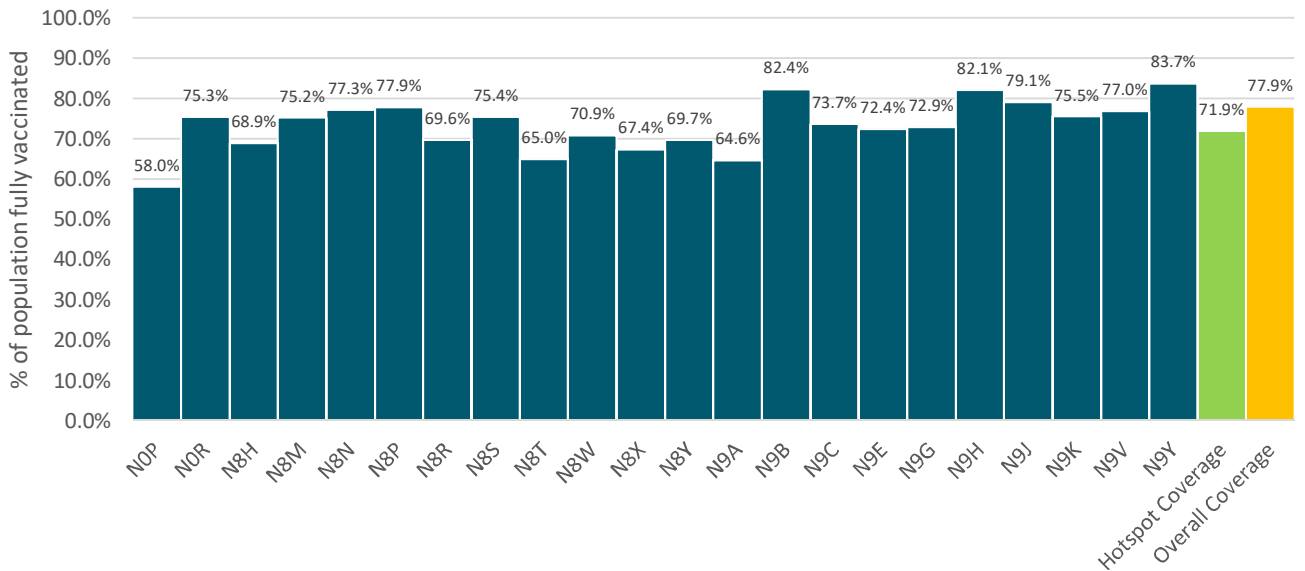


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: February 8, 2022

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

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 77.9% for all residents in WEC, including those not eligible, and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 71.9% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA N0P (58.0%), N9A (64.6%) and N8T (65.0%) have the lowest coverage rates in WEC. (Figure 11).

**Figure 11:** COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor-Essex County: February 8, 2022



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

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

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