

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiologic Update

March 23rd, 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 March 14 - 20, 2022)

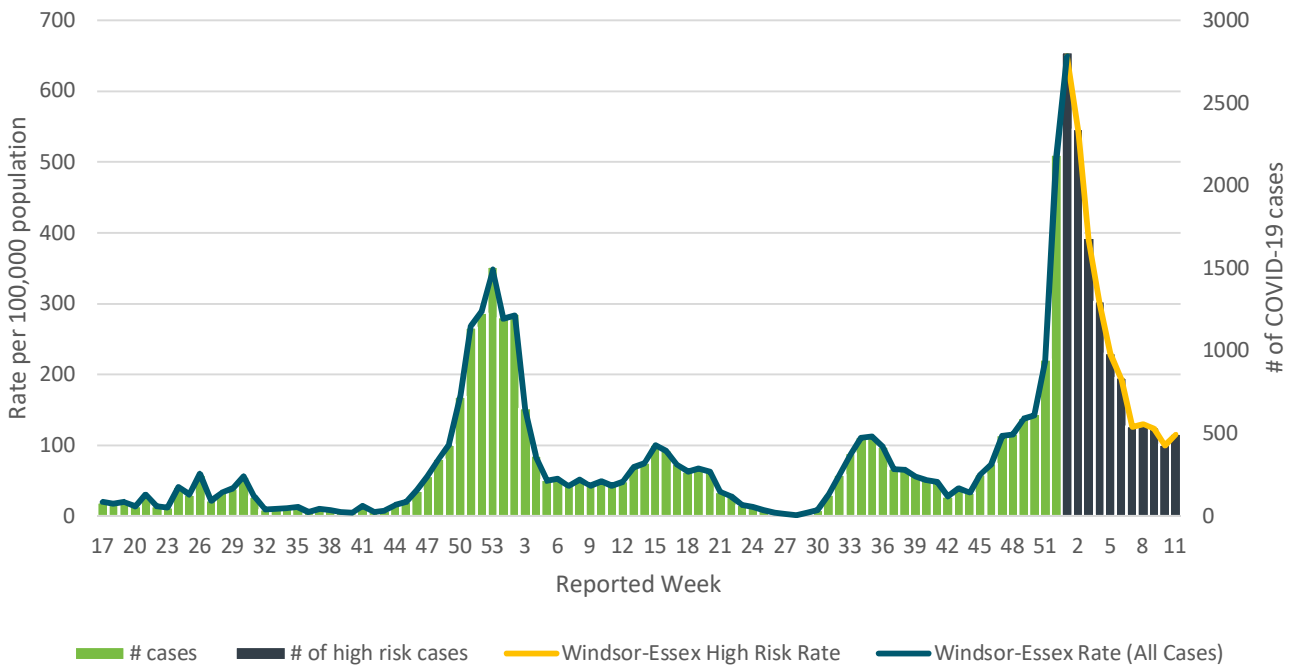
- The weekly high-risk case rate is 115.2 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 13.5% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 2.6 percentage points from 13.4% (March 6 - 12, 2022) to 16.0% (March 13 - 19, 2022).
- Number of in-patient hospitalizations decreased for Windsor-Essex County and across Ontario.
 - No new ICU admissions were reported for Windsor-Essex County, and a decline in ICU admissions was observed across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for March 14 - 20, 2022 declined throughout the week.
- Four deaths were reported this week (March 14 - 20, 2022), which is similar to the number of deaths reported during the previous week (March 7 - 13, 2022).
- Five outbreaks were declared during this week (March 14 - 20, 2022), compared to one outbreak declared during the previous week (March 7 - 13, 2022)
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 50.5% for residents 12 years and older.
 - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (9.4%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (83.5%).

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

Trends

For the most recent completed week of March 14 - 20, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 115.2 cases per 100,000 population, which is higher than the previous week's rate (March 7 - 13, 2022; 99.7 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a consistent decline in case rate has been observed, although a slight increase was observed during this week. Estimates of the case rate are likely an underestimate due to limited testing capacity.

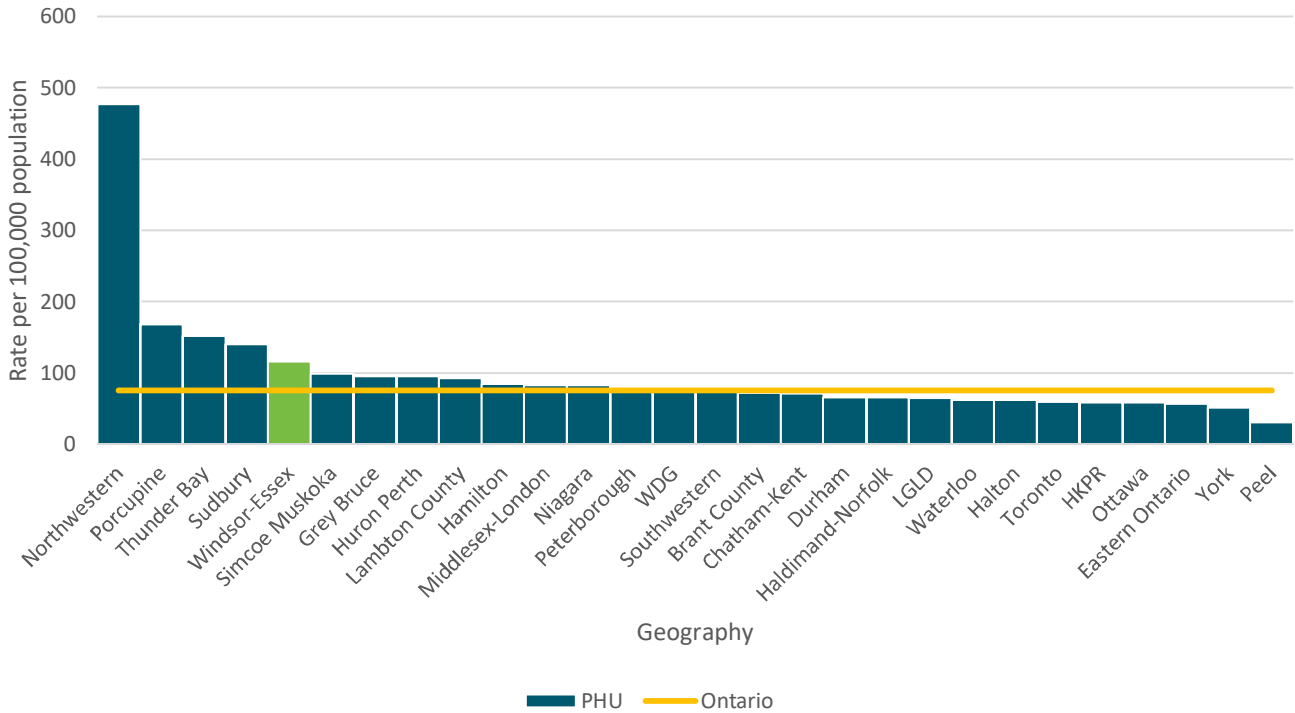
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 11, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [21/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

During the past week (March 14 - 20, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has increased and a similar increase was observed for Northwestern, Simcoe Muskoka, Huron Perth, Lambton, Peterborough, Durham and Toronto. All other health units reported a decline in their weekly case rates. 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: March 14 - 20, 2022.

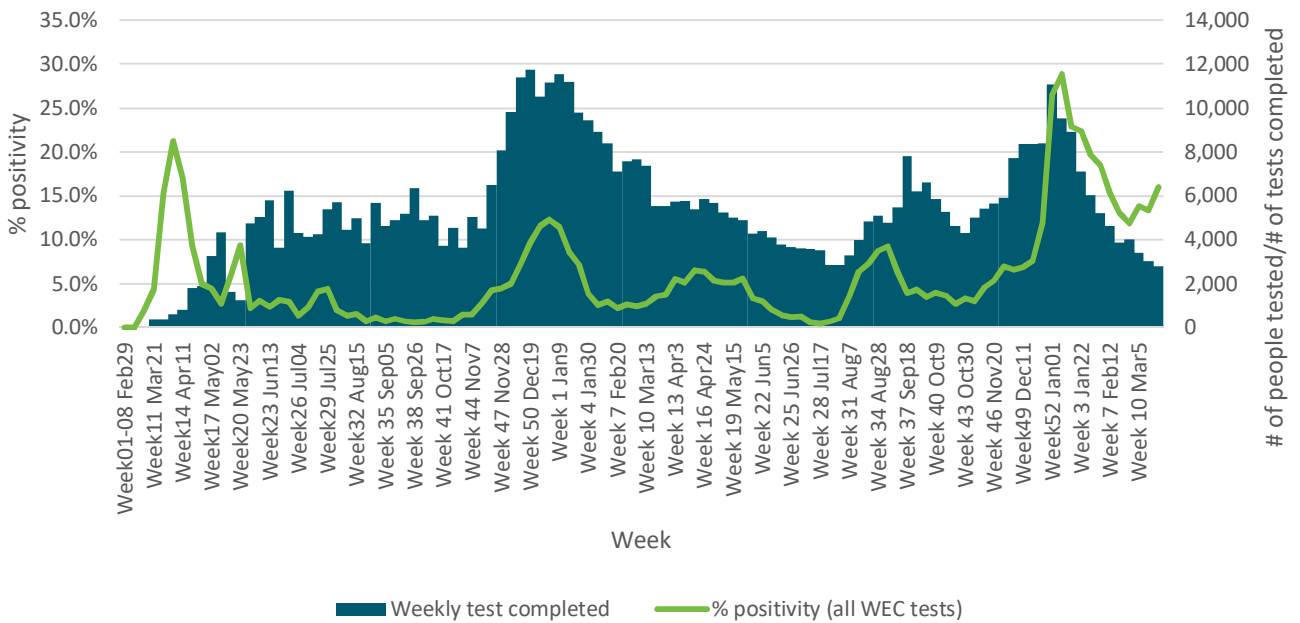


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 21, 2022.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (March 13 - 19, 2022) is 16.0%, which is 2.6 percentage points higher than the previous week (13.4%; March 6 - 12, 2022). After peaking in mid-January, there has been a consistent decline in percent positivity since January 2022, although an increase was observed during this past week.

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

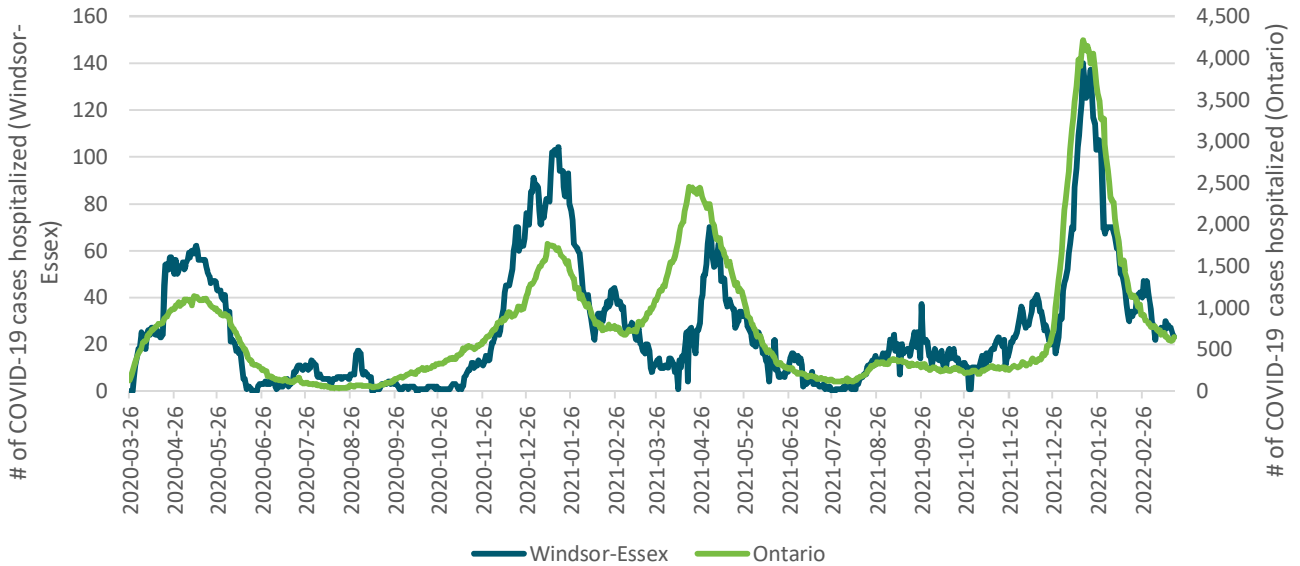


Note: Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rates should be interpreted with caution.
Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 21, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

For the most recent week (March 14 - 20, 2022), there have been 24 new hospital admissions compared to 31 new admissions seen during the previous week (March 7 - 13, 2022; **Figure 4**). Compared to two ICU admissions reported last week, no new COVID-19 patients were admitted to the ICU during this week (March 14 - 20, 2022; **Figure 5**). Besides some minor regional 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 both.

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



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 21, 2022.

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



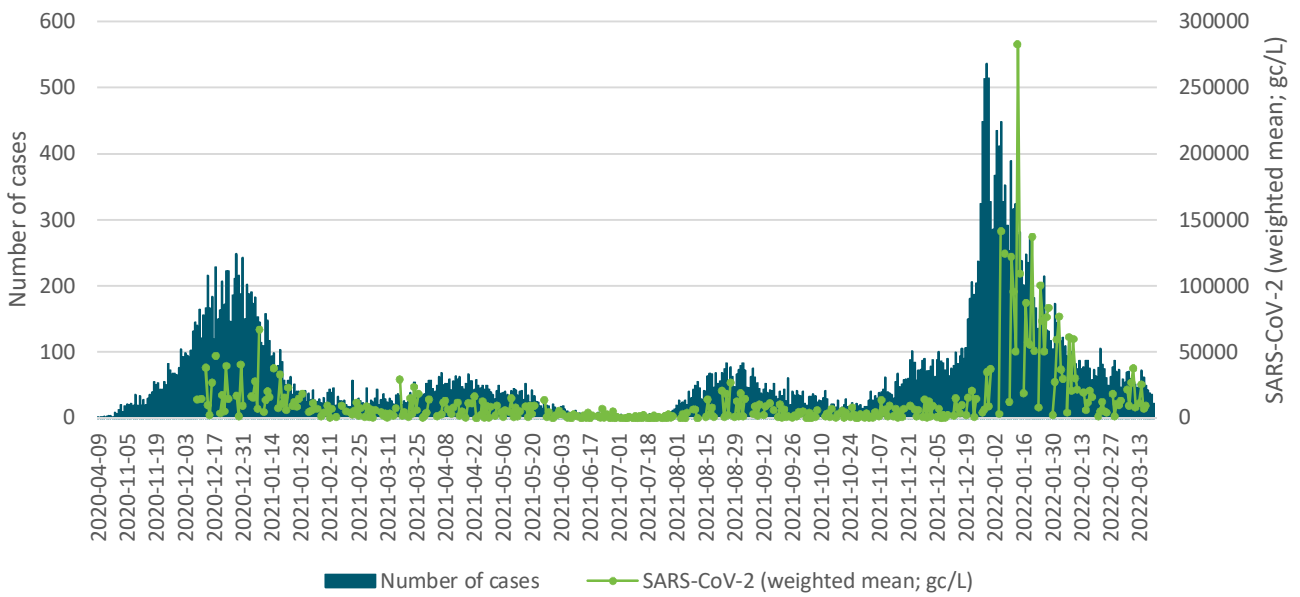
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 21, 2022.

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 (March 14 - 20, 2022), the signal intensity remained low with a decline observed throughout the week (**Figure 6**).

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

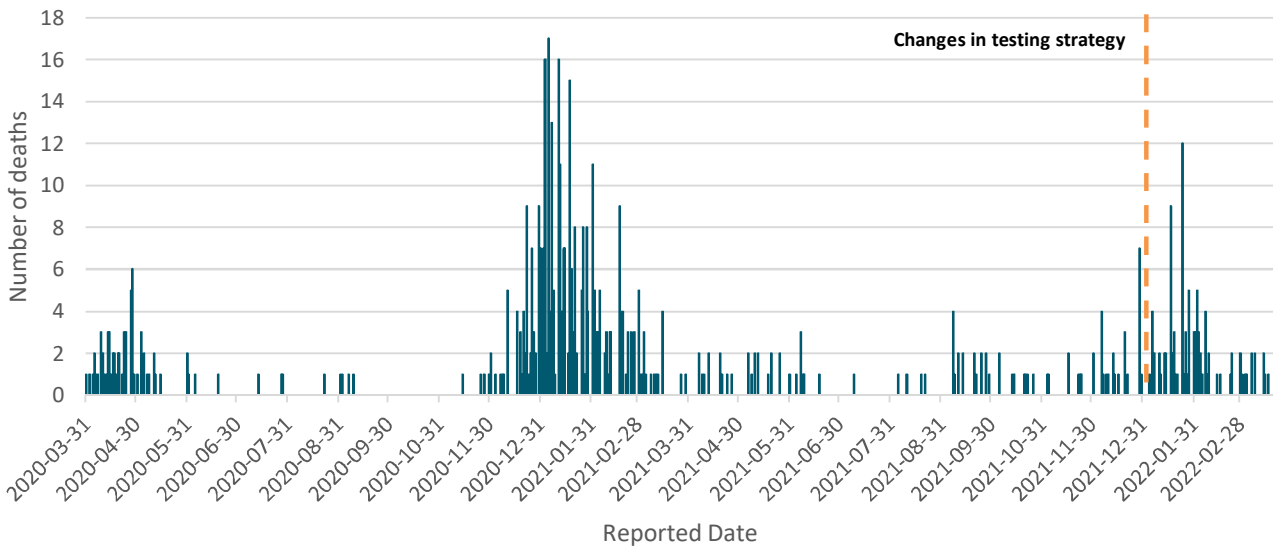


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on March 21, 2022.

Deaths

As of March 20, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 590 COVID-19 related deaths. Four deaths were reported during the current week (March 14 - 20, 2022; **Figure 7**), which is similar to the number of deaths reported during the previous week (March 7 - 13, 2022).

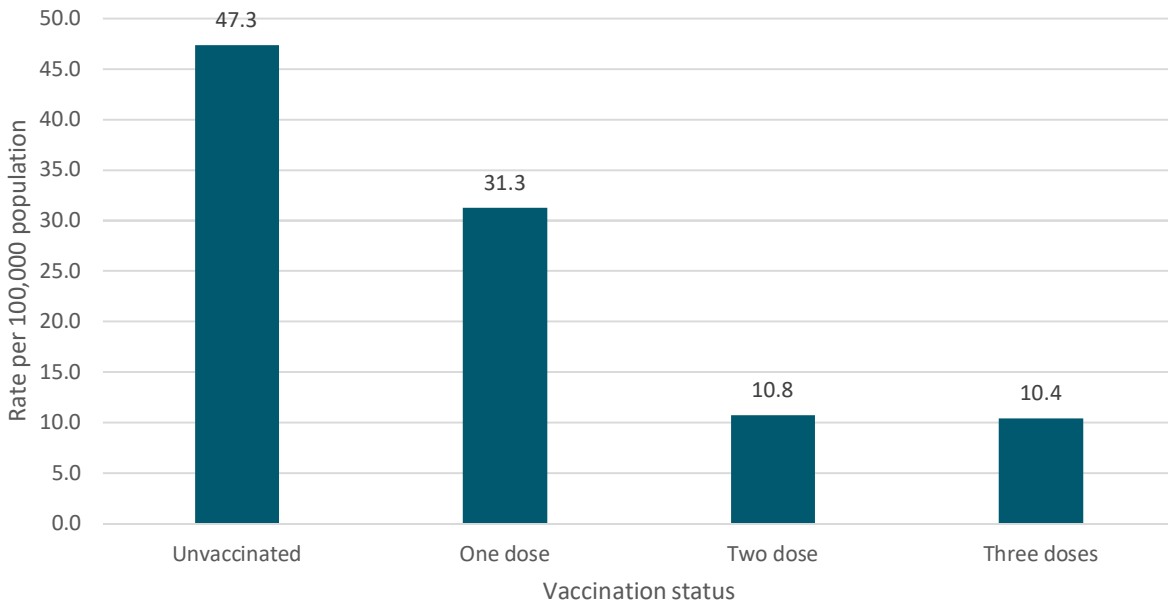
Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – March 20, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [21/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

A total of 97 deaths have been reported from January 1 – March 21, 2022. Unvaccinated individuals had the highest rate of a COVID-19 related death compared to those with any vaccination (**Figure 8**). The relative risk of unvaccinated individuals dying from COVID-19 compared to those fully vaccinated with a booster dose was 4.1. This means unvaccinated individuals are 4.1 times more likely to die from COVID-19 compared to those fully vaccinated with a booster dose.

Figure 8: Rate per 100,000 population of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status in Windsor-Essex County: January 1, 2022 – March 20, 2022.

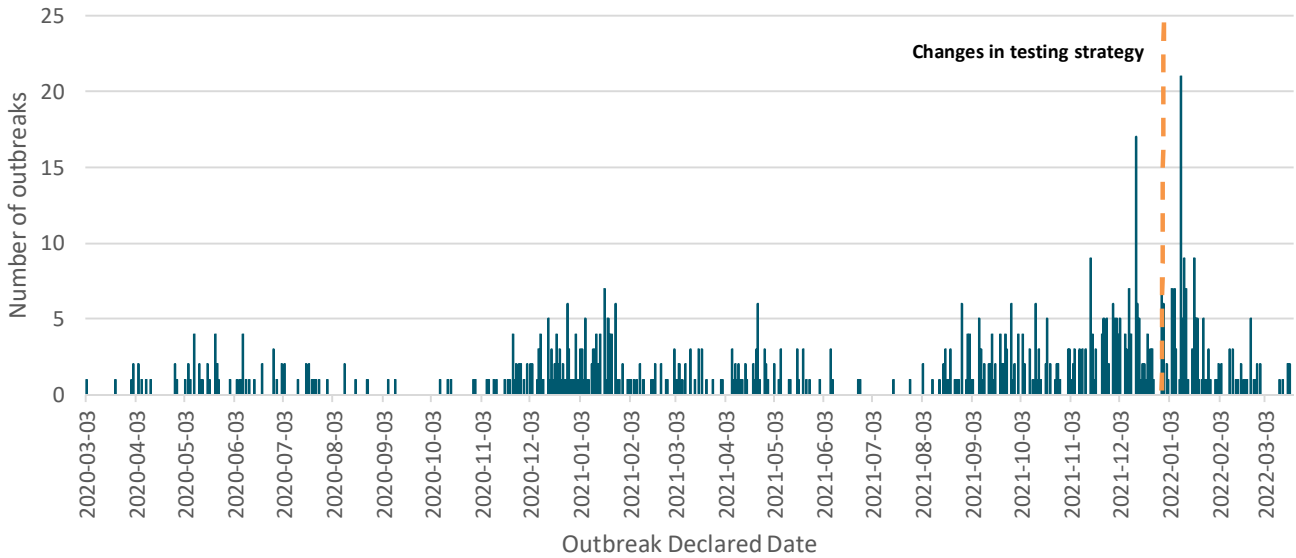


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [21/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

Outbreaks

As of March 20, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has six active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 9**). Five outbreaks were declared this week (March 14 - 20, 2022) compared to one outbreak declared during the past week (March 7 – 13, 2022). Due to the changes in testing strategy focusing on high risk settings since January, most of the 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 – March 20, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [21/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

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

<https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>

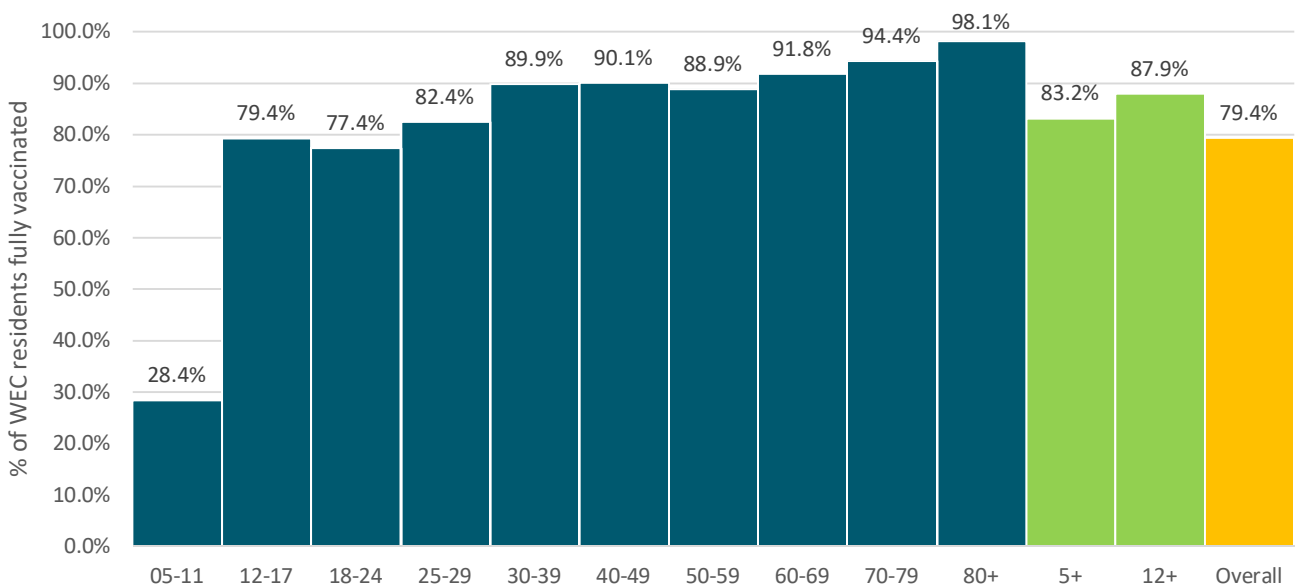
COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Over 1,909 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 11 (March 14 to March 20) compared to 1,411 doses in week 10 (March 7 to March 13). This represents a 35.2% increase 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 (28.4%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (77.4%) and 12-17 age group (79.4%) (**Figure 10**).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 21, 2022.

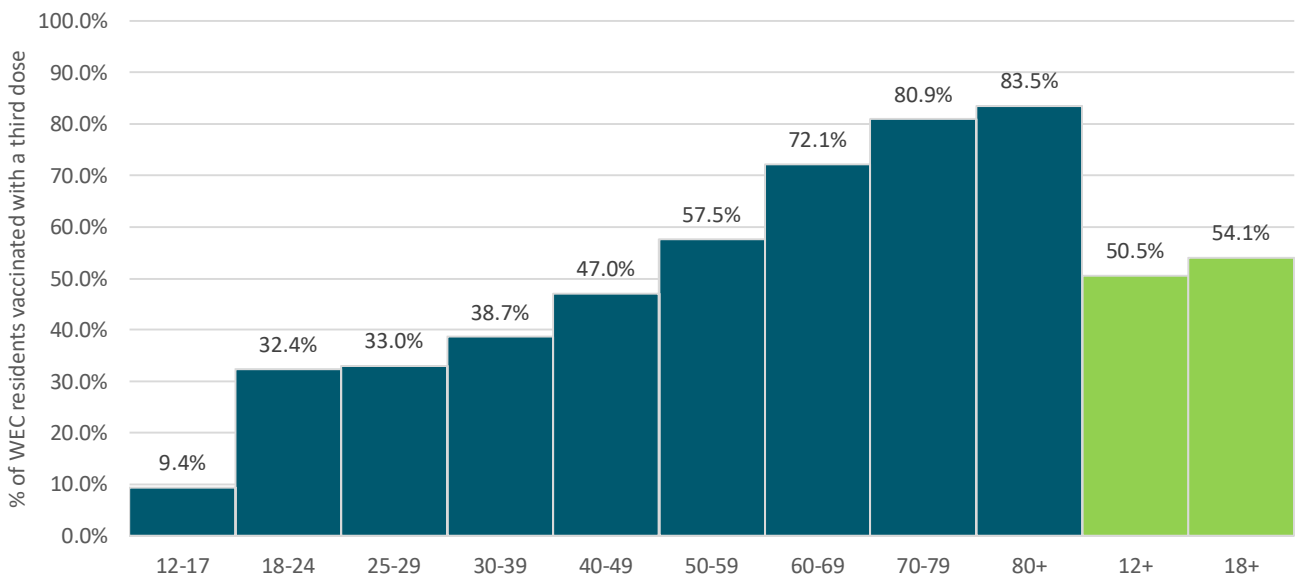


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 21, 2022

Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 50.5%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (9.4%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.4%) and 25-29 age group (33.0%) (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 21, 2022

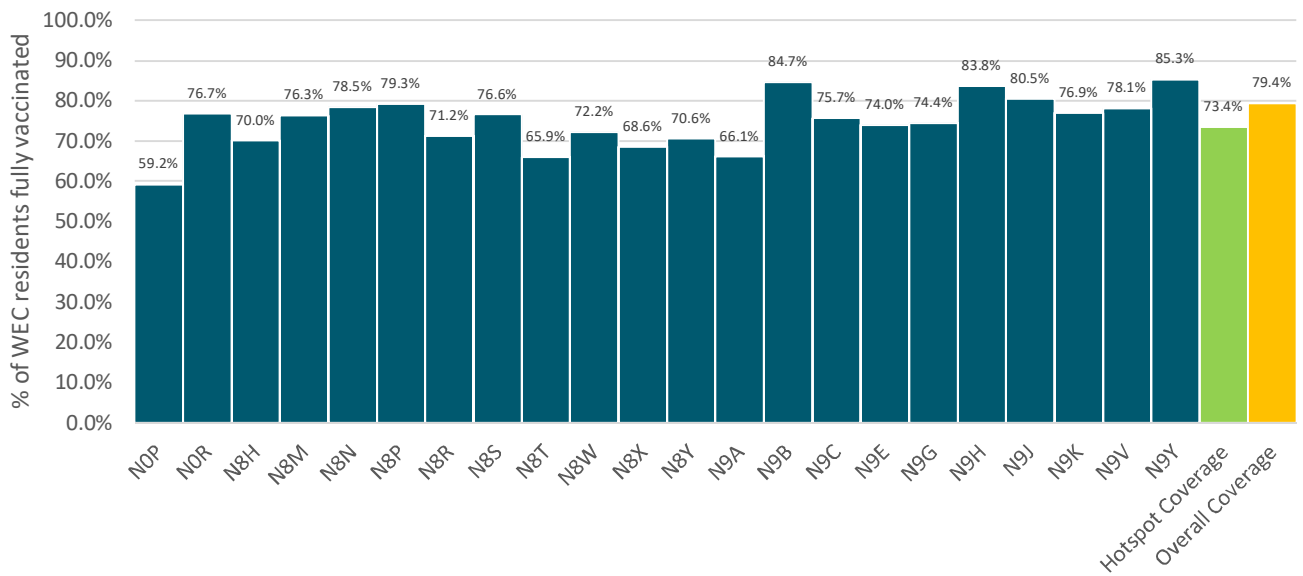


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 21, 2022.

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 79.4% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.4% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (59.2%), N8T (65.9%) and N9A (66.1%) have the lowest coverage rates in Windsor and Essex County (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12: COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor and Essex County: March 21, 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 21, 2022.

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

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