

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Update

March 30th, 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 21 - 27, 2022)

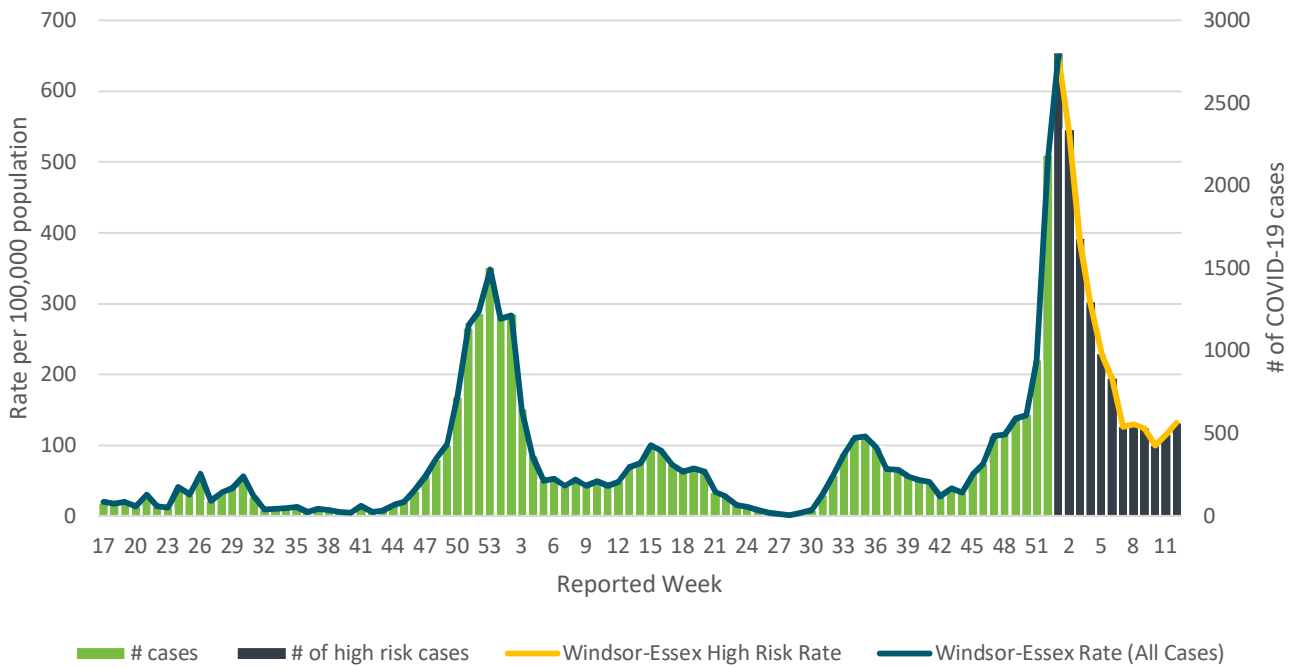
- The weekly high-risk case rate is 131.4 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 13.1% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 1.4 percentage points from 15.0% (March 13 - 19, 2022) to 16.4% (March 20 - 26, 2022).
- Number of in-patient hospitalizations increased for Windsor-Essex County and in Ontario.
 - Four new ICU admissions were reported for Windsor-Essex County, and a decline in ICU admissions was observed across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for March 21 - 27, 2022 declined throughout the week with a slight increase towards the end.
- Three deaths were reported this week (March 21 - 27, 2022), which is lower than four deaths reported during the previous week (March 14 - 20, 2022).
- Seven outbreaks were declared during this week (March 21 - 27, 2022), compared to five outbreaks declared during the previous week (March 14 - 20, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 50.8% for residents 12 years and older.
 - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.0%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (83.6%).

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

Trends

For the most recent completed week of March 21- 27, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 131.4 cases per 100,000 population, which is higher than the previous week's rate (March 14 - 20, 2022; 115.2 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 the past two weeks. Estimates of the case rate are likely an underestimate due to limited testing capacity.

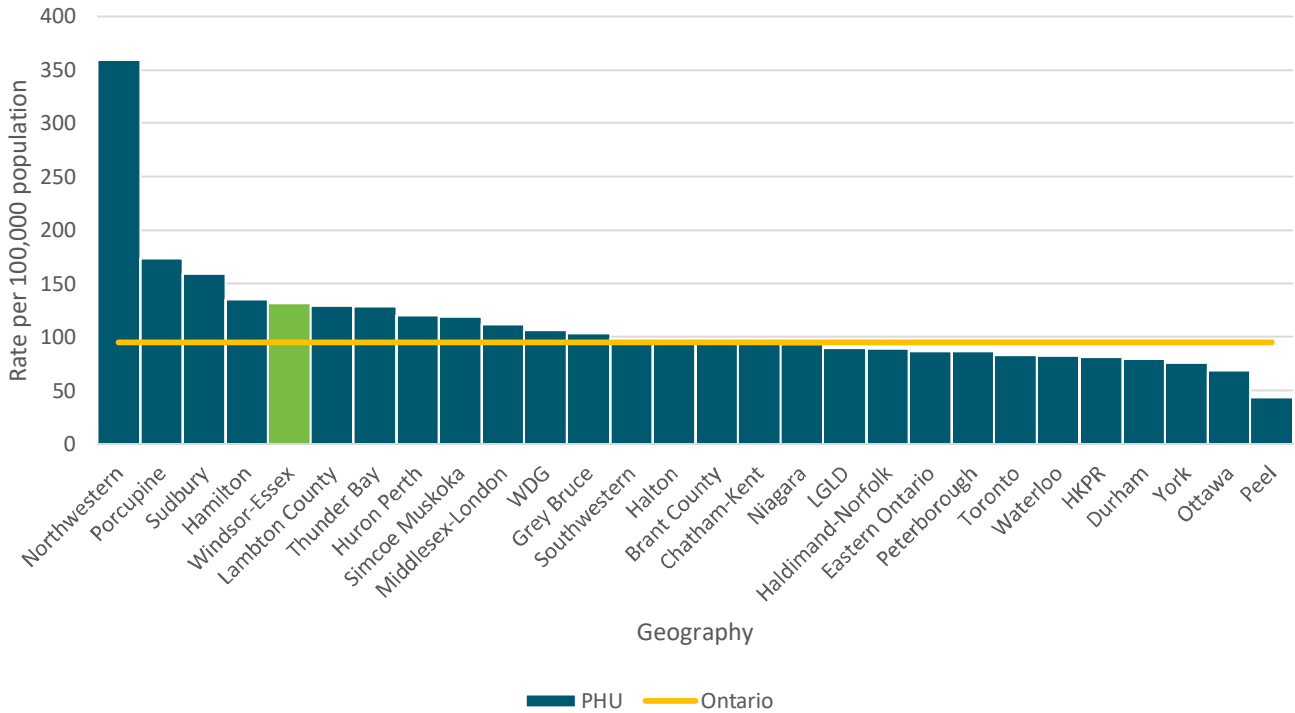
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 12, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [28/Mar/2022] at 1:30 pm.

During the past week (March 21 - 27, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has increased and a similar increase was observed for all health units across Ontario except Northwestern, which reported a slight decrease in their case rate. 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 21 - 27, 2022.

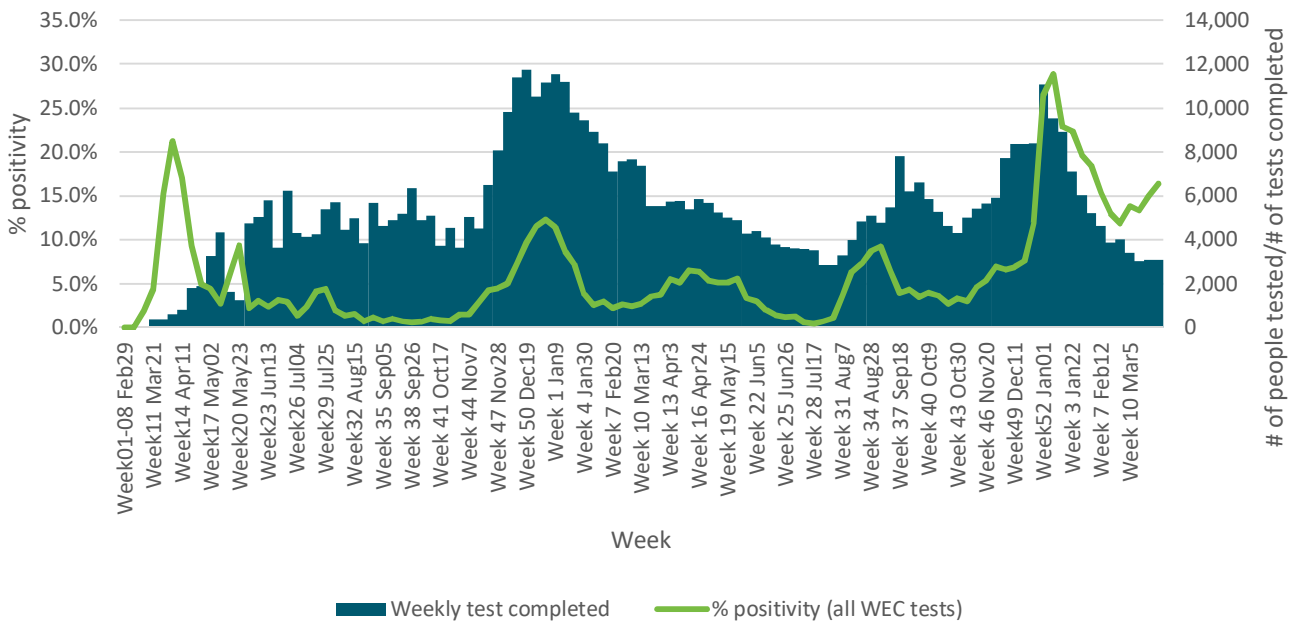


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 28, 2022.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (March 20 - 26, 2022) is 16.4%, which is 1.4 percentage points higher than the previous week (15.0%; March 13 - 19, 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 past two weeks.

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

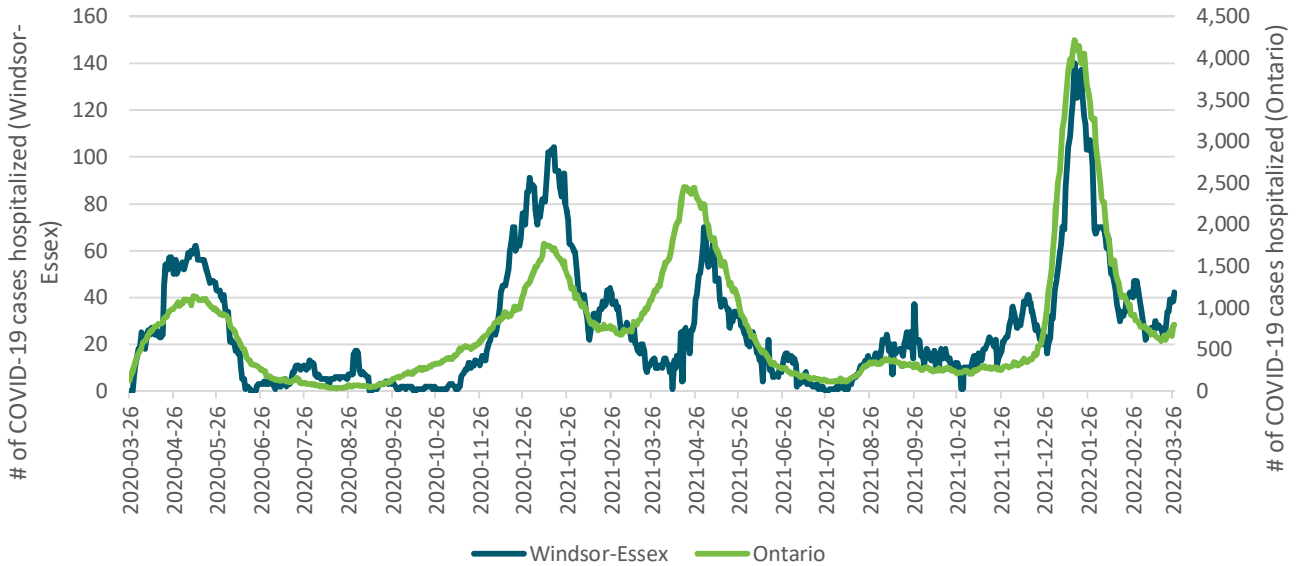


Note: Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rates should be interpreted with caution. **Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 28, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

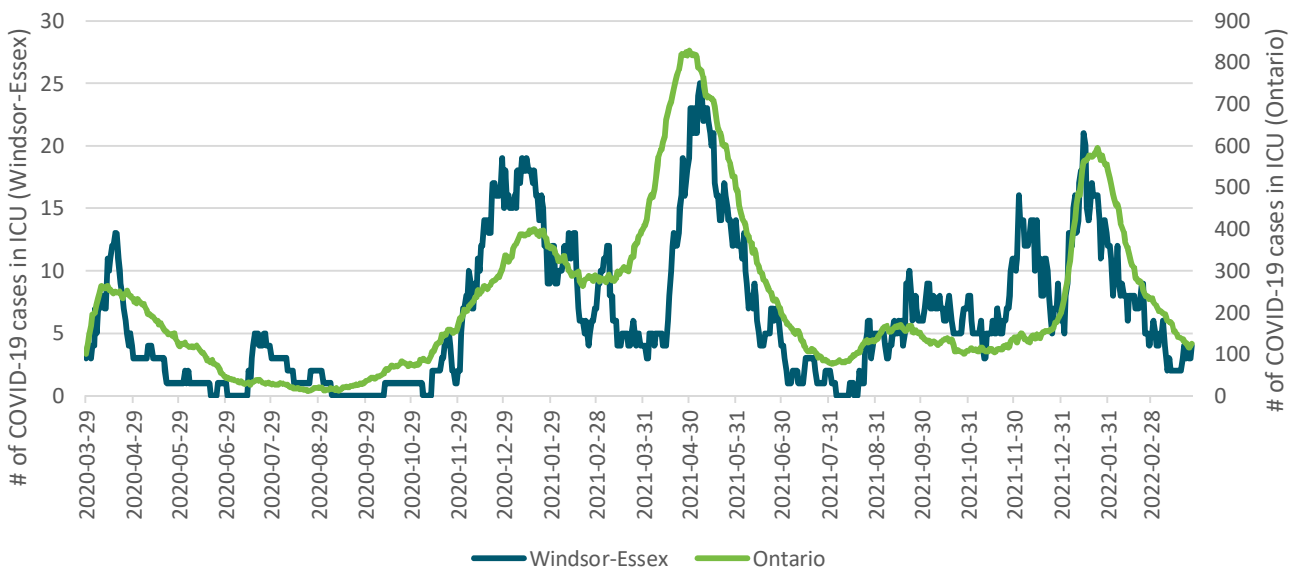
For the most recent week (March 21 - 27, 2022), there have been 50 new hospital admissions compared to 26 new admissions seen during the previous week (March 14 - 20, 2022; **Figure 4**). Compared to zero new ICU admissions reported last week, four COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU during this week (March 21 - 27, 2022; **Figure 5**). An increase in hospitalizations was observed in Windsor-Essex and Ontario during this past week. The number of ICU admissions showed a declining trend across Ontario, but an increase was reported for Windsor-Essex County during this week.

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



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 28, 2022.

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



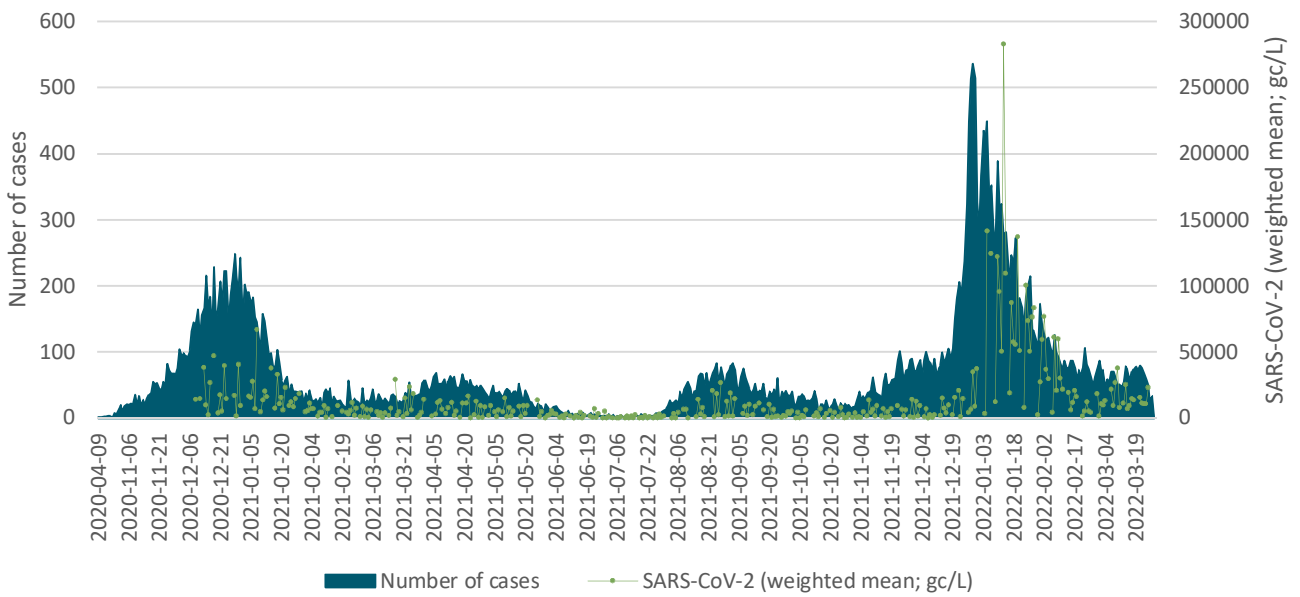
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 28, 2022.

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 21 - 27, 2022), the signal intensity remained low 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 27, 2022

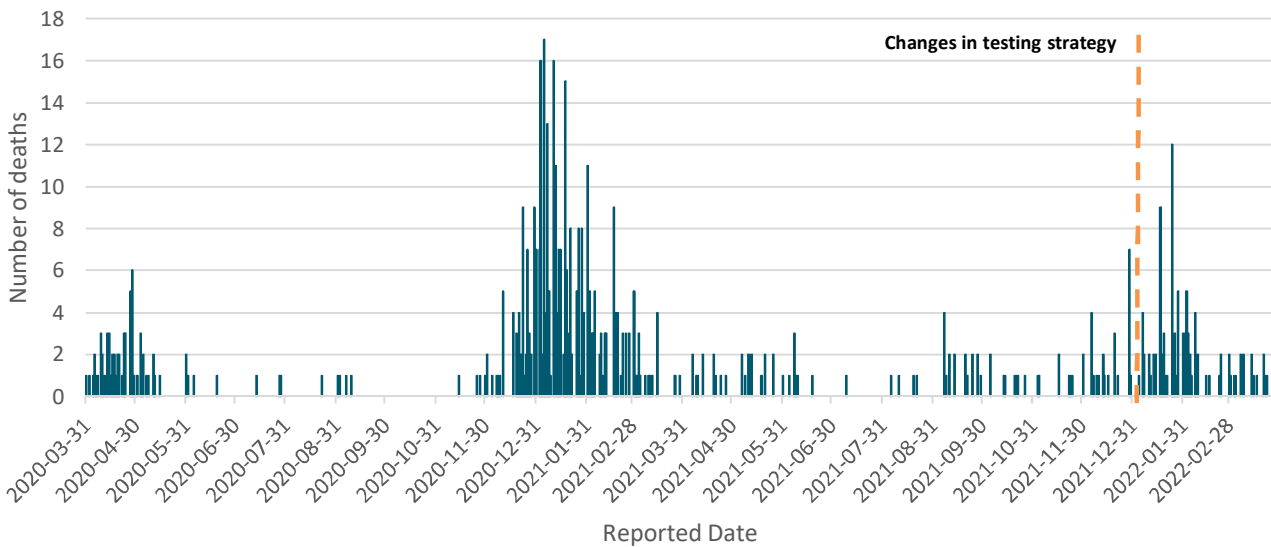


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on March 28, 2022.

Deaths

As of March 27, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 592 COVID-19 related deaths. Three deaths were reported during the current week (March 21 - 27, 2022; **Figure 7**), compared to four deaths reported during the previous week (March 14 - 20, 2022).

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

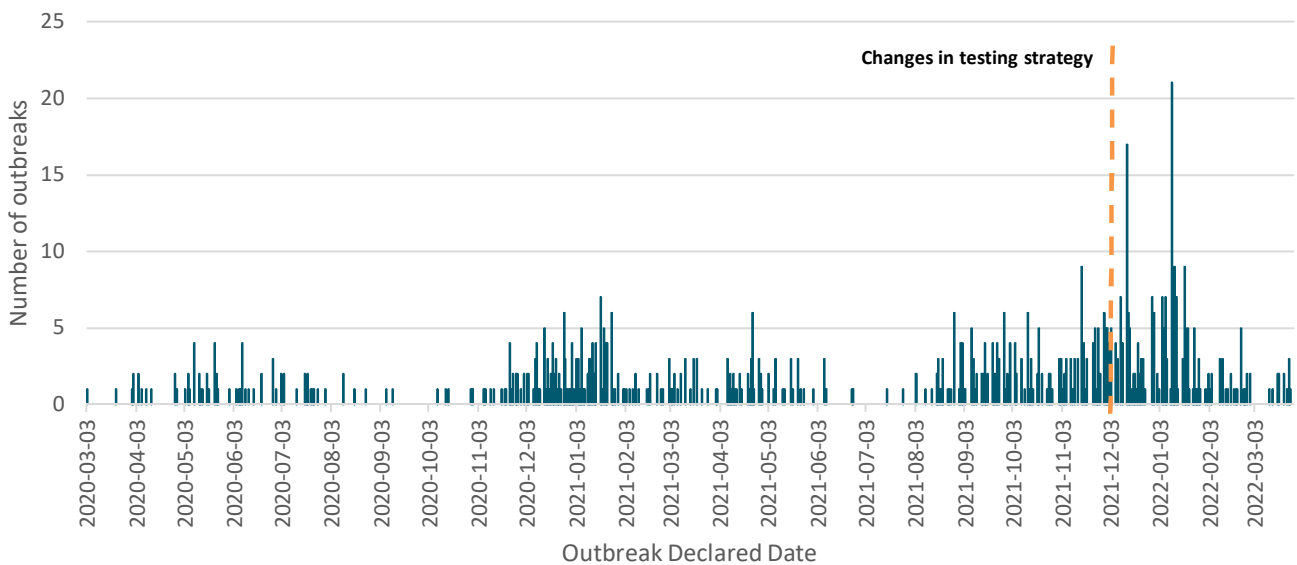


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [28/Mar/2022] at 1:30 pm.

Outbreaks

As of March 27, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 13 active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 8**). Seven outbreaks were declared this week (March 21 - 27, 2022) compared to five outbreak declared during the past week (March 14 - 20, 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 8: Number of confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks declared by Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – March 27, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [28/Mar/2022] at 1:30 pm.

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

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

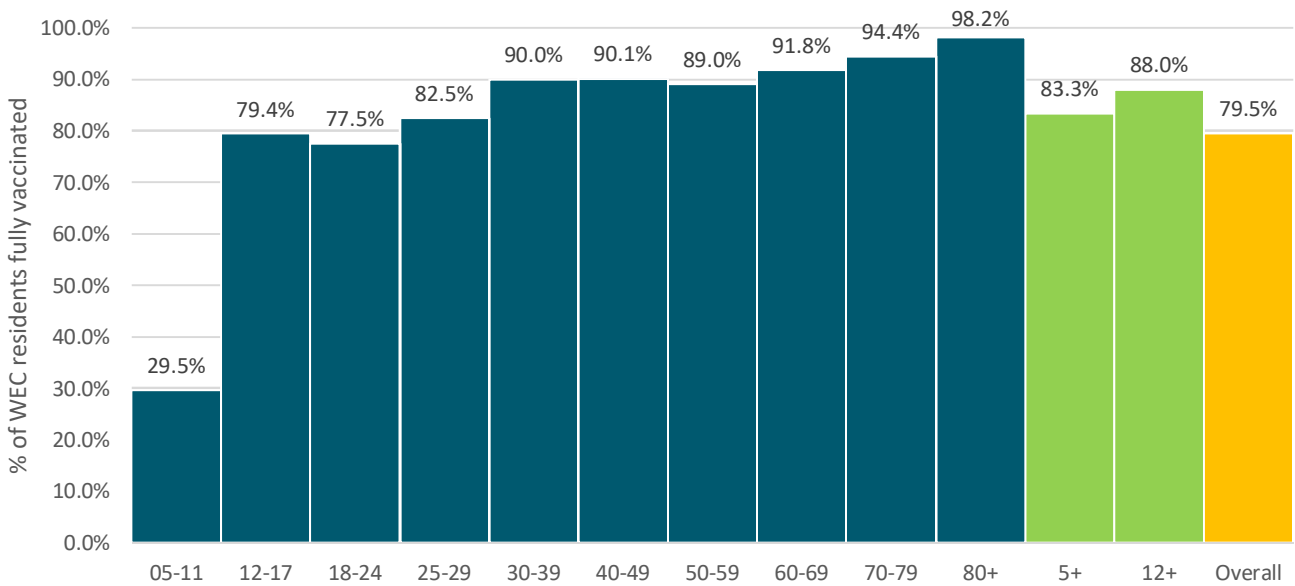
COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Over 1,684 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 12 (March 21 to March 27) compared to 1,937 doses in week 11 (March 14 to March 20). This represents a 13.1% 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 (29.5%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (77.5%) and 12-17 age group (79.4%) (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9: COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 28, 2022

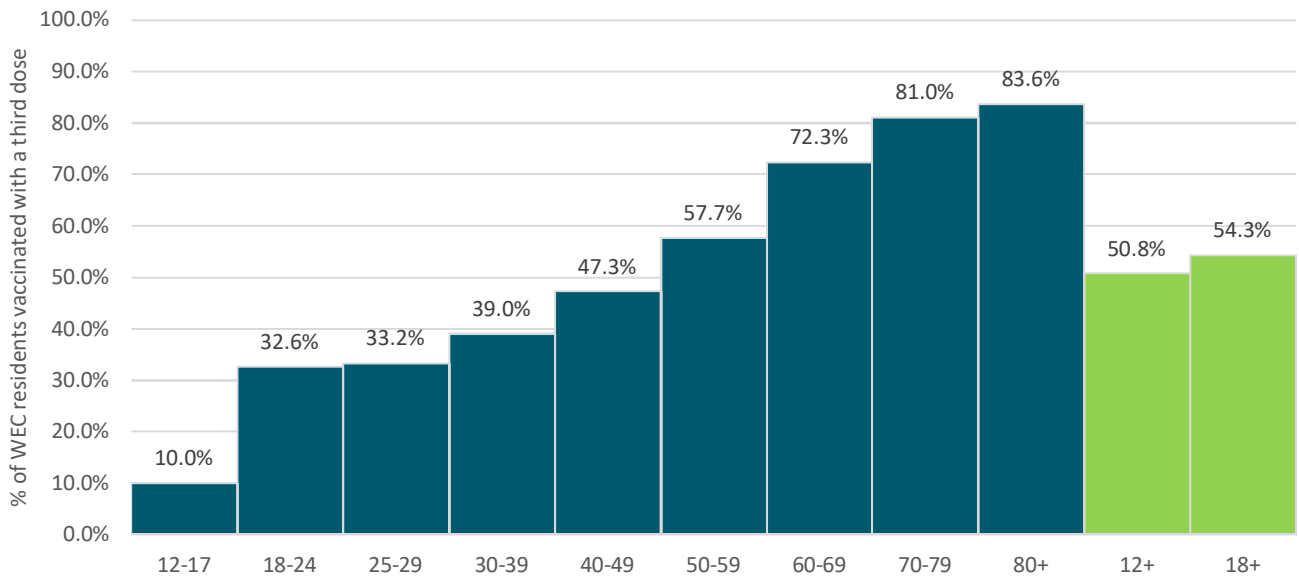


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 28, 2022.

Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 50.8%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.0%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.6%) and 25-29 age group (33.2%) (Figure 10).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 28, 2022

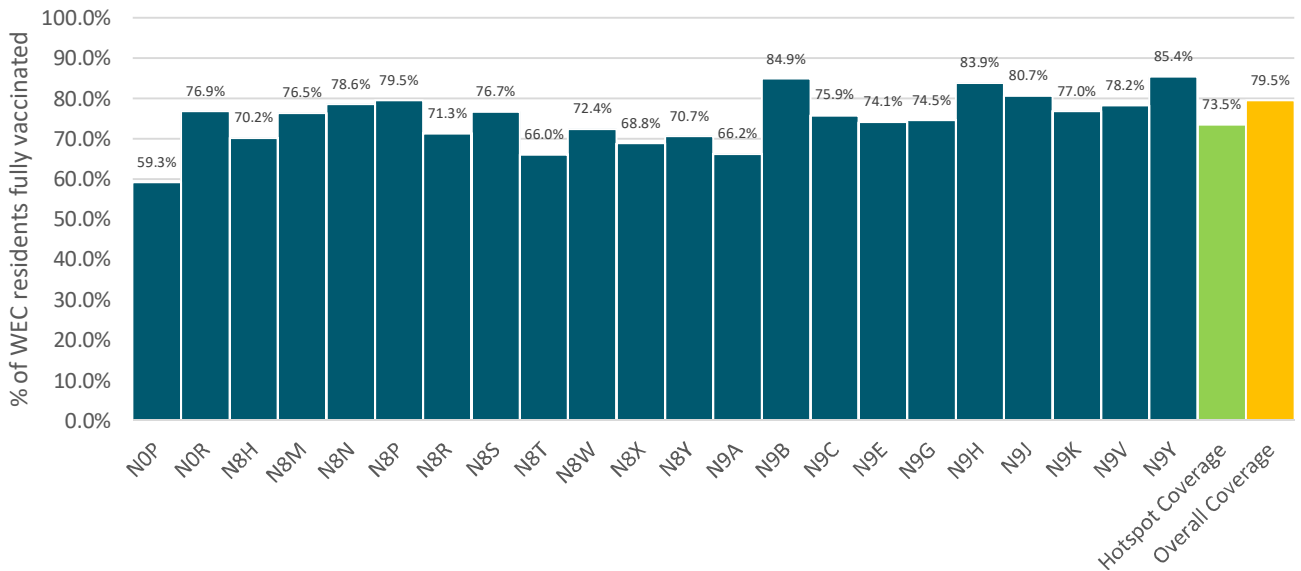


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 28, 2022.

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 79.5% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.5% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (59.3%), N8T (66.0%) and N9A (66.2%) 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 28, 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 28, 2022.

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

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