

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Update

April 4th, 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 28 – April 3, 2022)

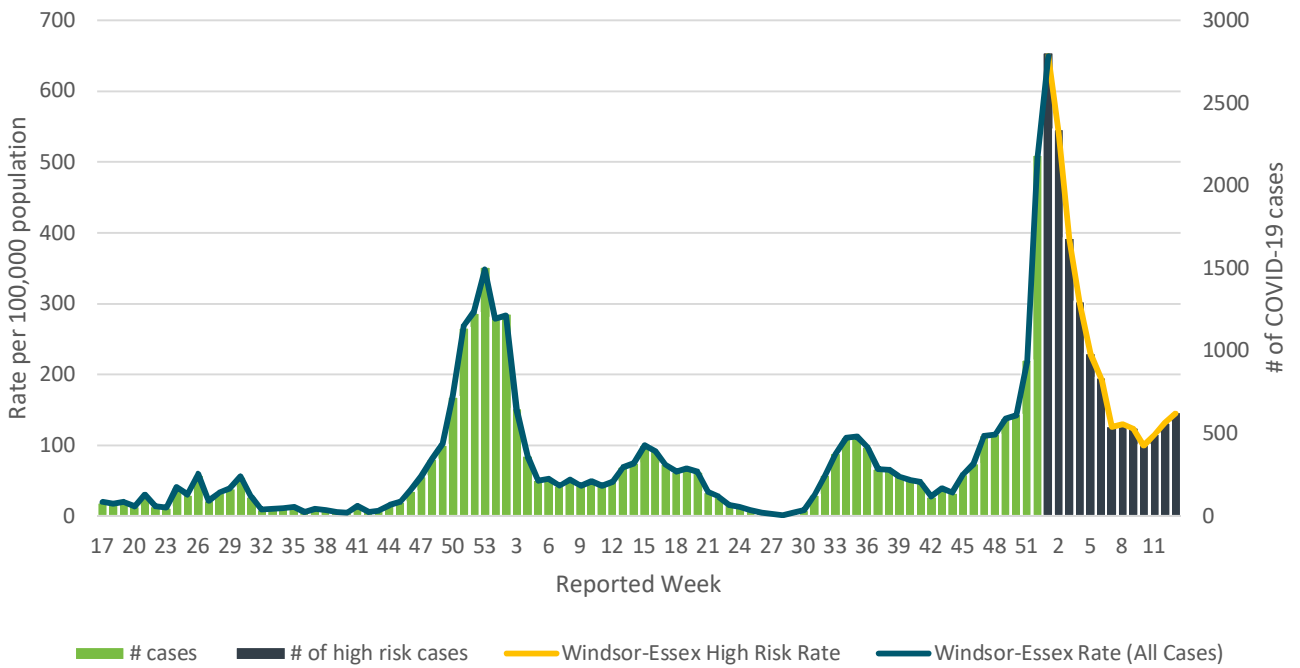
- The weekly high-risk case rate is 145.1 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 9.9% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 3.9 percentage points from 15.4% (March 20 - 26, 2022) to 19.3% (March 27 – April 2, 2022).
- Number of in-patient hospitalizations increased for Windsor-Essex County and in Ontario.
 - Five new ICU admissions were reported for Windsor-Essex County, and an increase in ICU admissions was observed across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for March 28 – April 3, 2022 increased throughout the week.
- Two deaths were reported this week (March 28 – April 3, 2022), which is lower than three deaths reported during the previous week (March 21 - 27, 2022).
- Similar to the previous week (March 21 – 27, 2022), seven new outbreaks were declared during this week (March 28 – April 3, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 51.0% for residents 12 years and older.
 - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.7%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (83.8%).

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

Trends

For the most recent completed week of March 28 – April 3, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 145.1 cases per 100,000 population, which is higher than the previous week's rate (March 21 - 27, 2022; 131.4 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a consistent decline in case rate was observed until mid-March, followed by an increasing case rate during the past three weeks. Estimates of the case rate are likely an underestimate due to limited testing capacity.

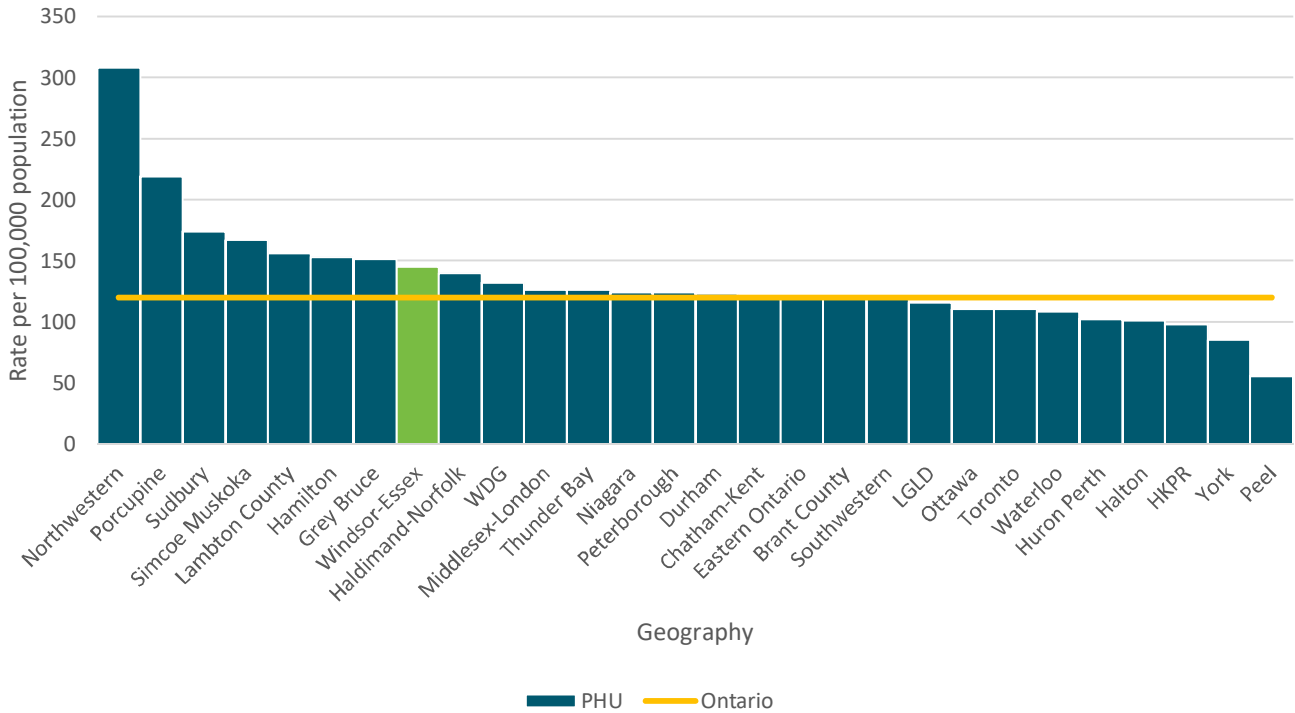
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 13, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [04/Apr/2022] at 1:30 pm.

During the past week (March 28 – April 3, 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 and Huron Perth, which reported a slight decrease in case rate compared to the previous week. Windsor-Essex County has the eighth highest weekly high risk 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 28 – April 3, 2022.

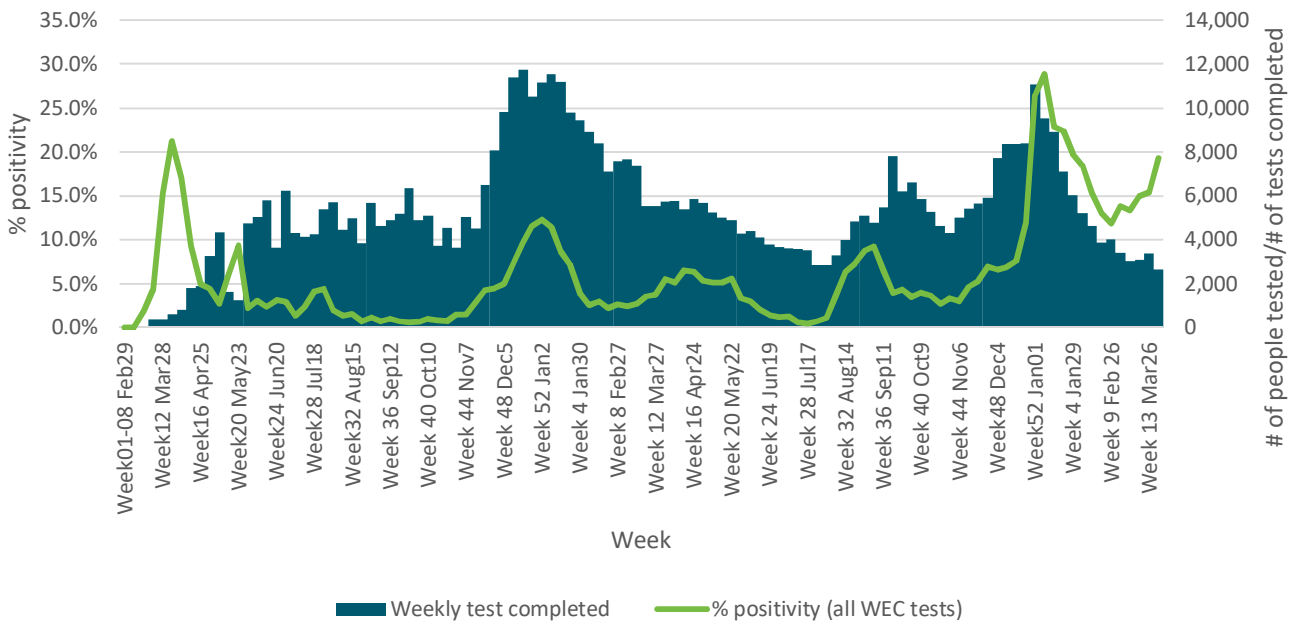


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 4, 2022.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (March 27 – April 2, 2022) is 19.3%, which is 3.9 percentage points higher than the previous week (15.4%; March 20 - 26, 2022). After peaking in mid-January, there was a decline in percent positivity until mid-March, after which a consistent increase can be observed.

Figure 3: Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to April 2, 2022

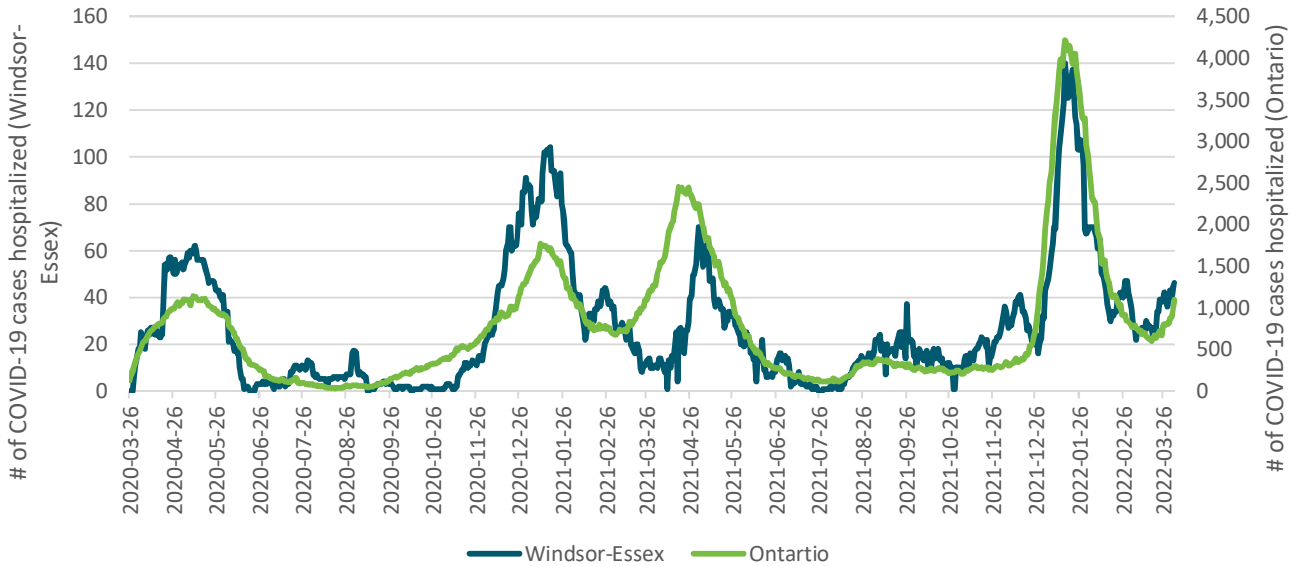


Note: Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rates should be interpreted with caution. **Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 4, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

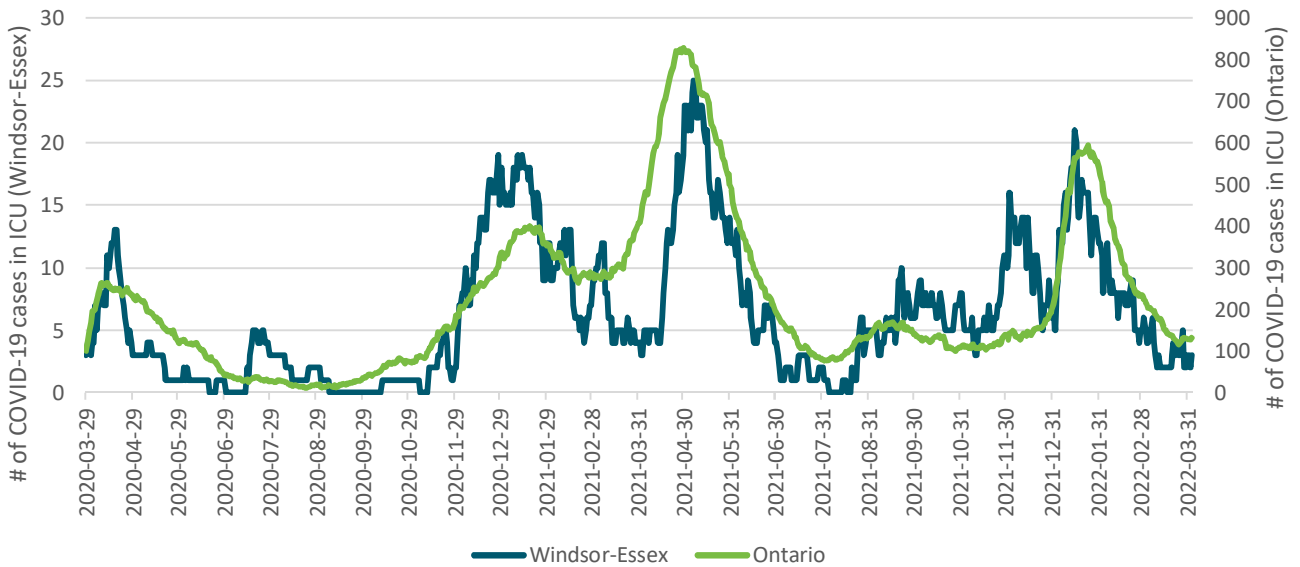
For the most recent week (March 28 – April 3, 2022), there have been 48 new hospital admissions compared to 50 new admissions seen during the previous week (March 21 - 27, 2022; **Figure 4**). Five new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU this week (March 28 – April 3, 2022), compared to four admissions reported during the previous week (**Figure 5**). After peaking in mid-January, hospital admissions declined until mid-March, after which a continuous increase can be observed for both Windsor-Essex County and Ontario. Compared to the previous week, an increase in ICU admissions was observed for both Windsor-Essex County and Ontario.

Figure 4: Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – April 3, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 5, 2022.

Figure 5: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – April 3, 2022



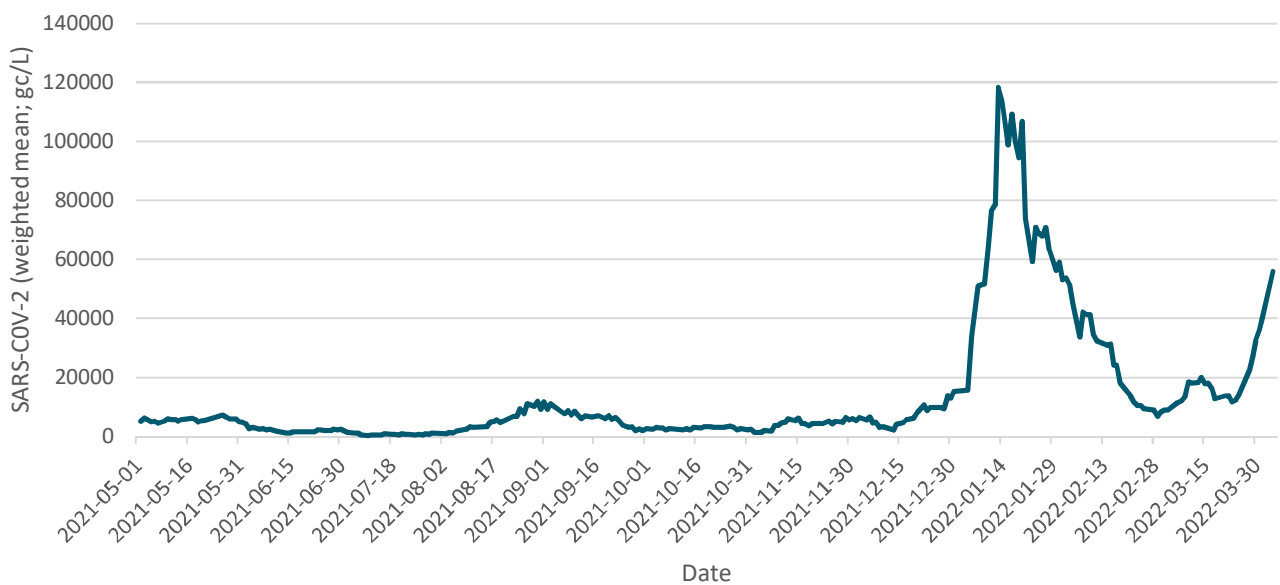
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 5, 2022.

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 28 - April 3, 2022), the signal intensity showed a continuous increase throughout the week using a 7-day rolling average (**Figure 6**). Overall, the viral signal remains relatively high compared to the low levels observed during the past year.

Figure 6: COVID-19 wastewater viral signal (7-day rolling average) in Windsor-Essex County: August 1, 2021 – April 4, 2022

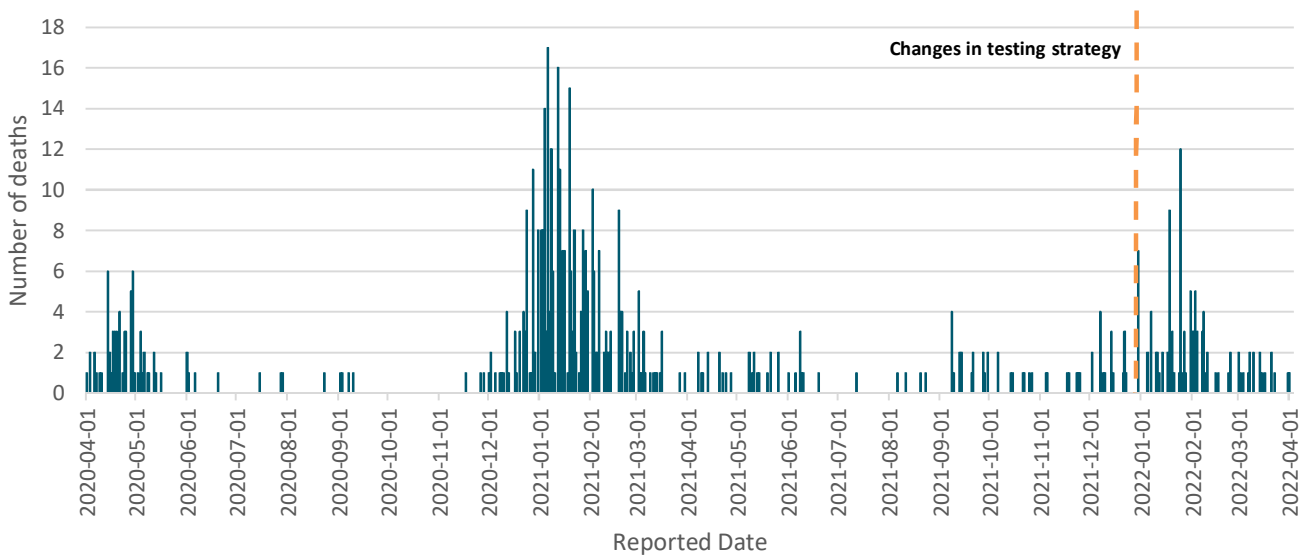


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on April 4, 2022.

Deaths

As of April 3, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 593 COVID-19 related deaths. Two deaths were reported during the current week (March 28 – April 3, 2022; **Figure 7**), compared to three deaths reported during the previous week (March 21 - 27, 2022).

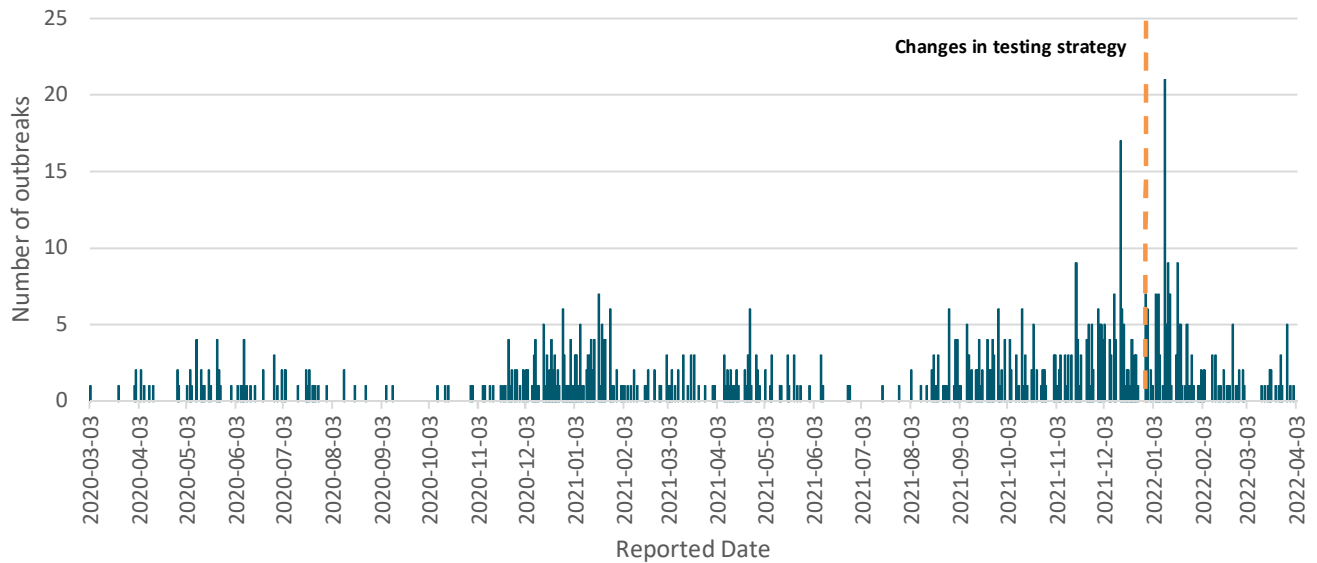
Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – April 3, 2022.



Outbreaks

As of April 3, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 14 active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 8**). Similar to the previous week, seven outbreaks were declared during this week (March 28 – April 3, 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 – April 3, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [04/Apr/2022] at 1:30 pm.

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

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

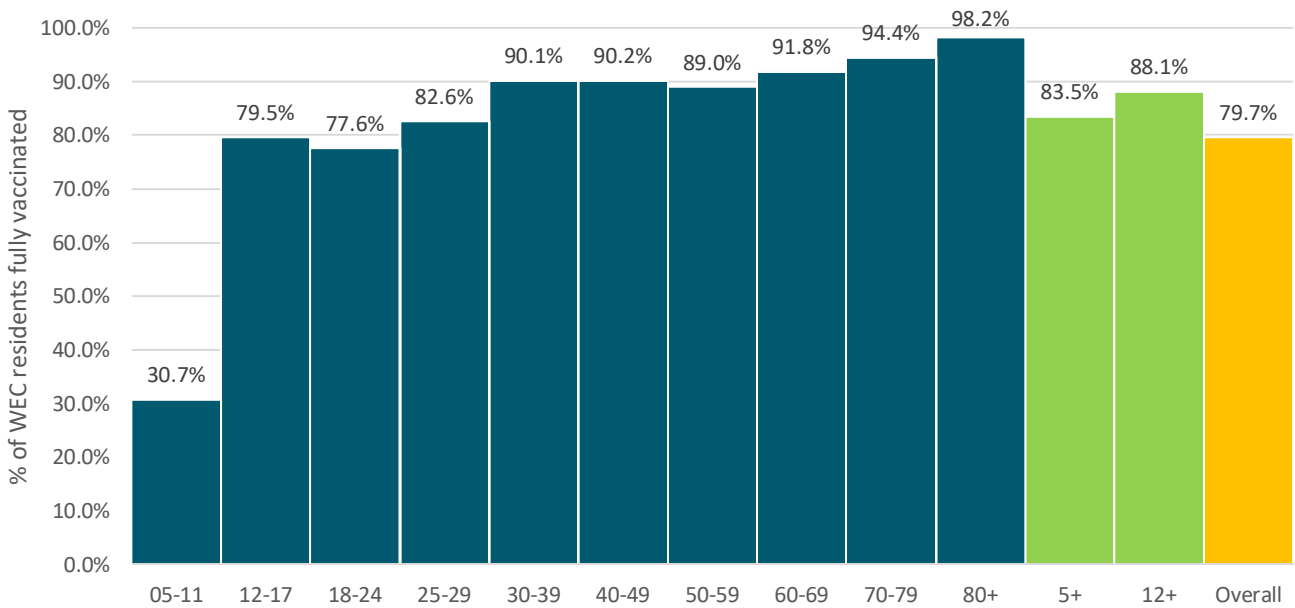
COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Over 1,757 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 13 (March 28 to April 3) compared to 1,688 doses in week 12 (March 21 to March 27). This represents a 4.1% 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 (30.7%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (77.6%) and 12-17 age group (79.5%) (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9: COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: April 4, 2022

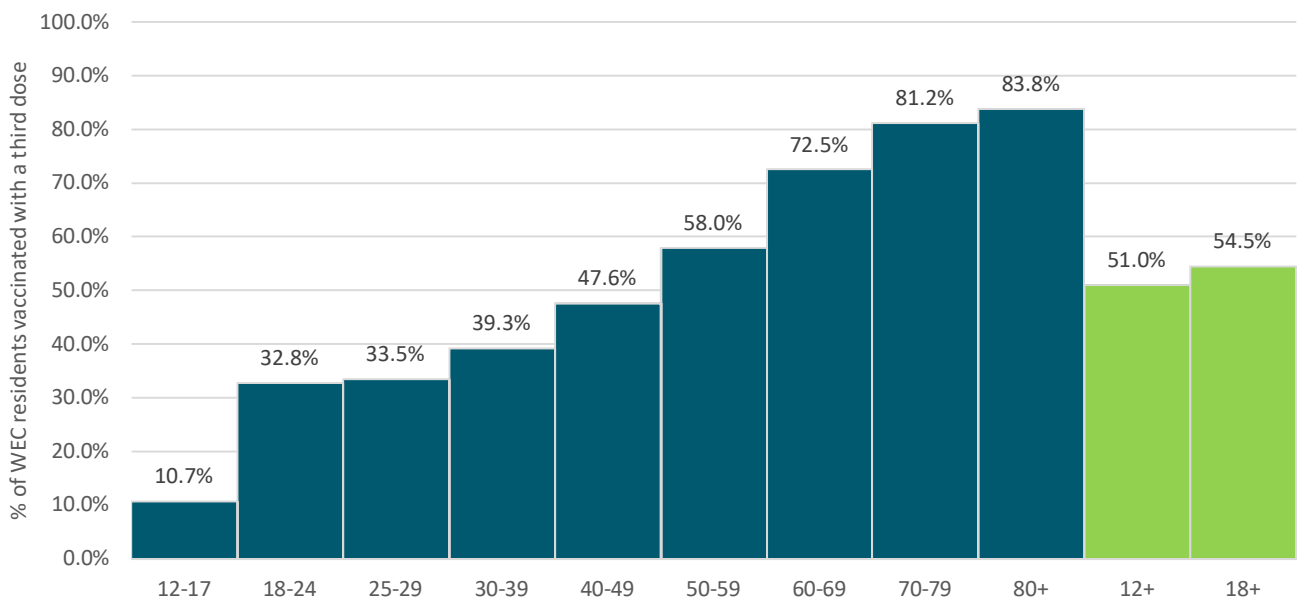


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: April 4, 2022.

Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 51.0%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.7%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.8%) and 25-29 age group (33.5%) (**Figure 10**).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: April 4, 2022

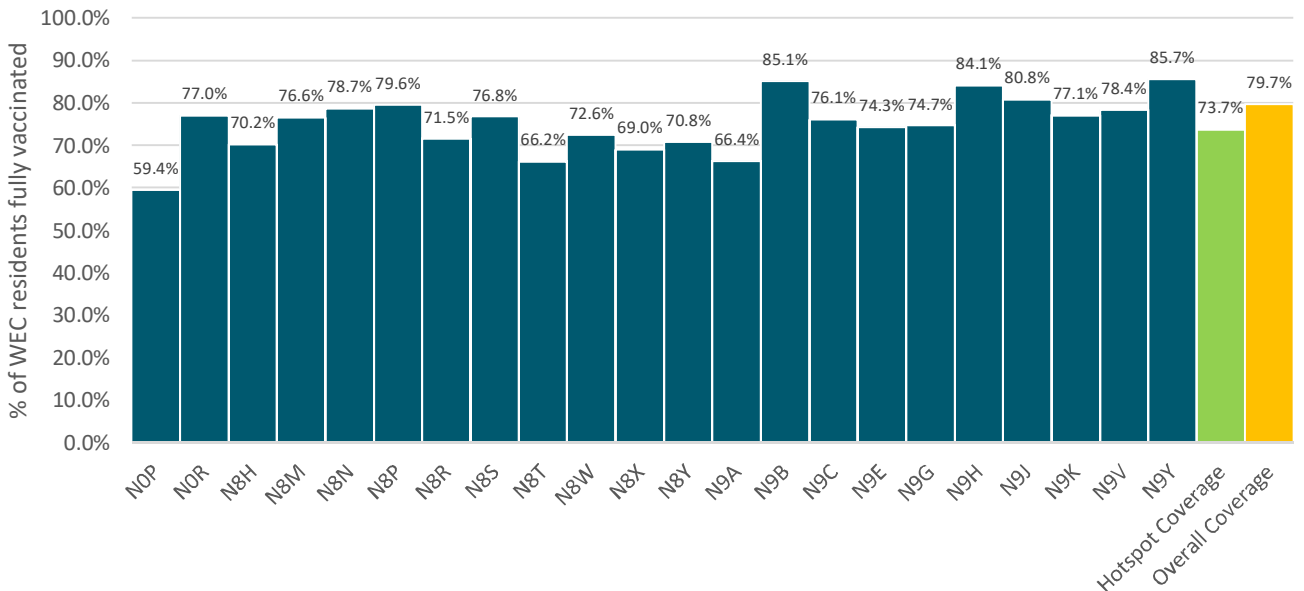


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: April 4, 2022.

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 79.7% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.7% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (59.4%), N8T (66.2%) and N9A (66.4%) 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: April 4, 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: April 4, 2022.

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

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