

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiologic Update

March 16th, 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 7 - 13, 2022)

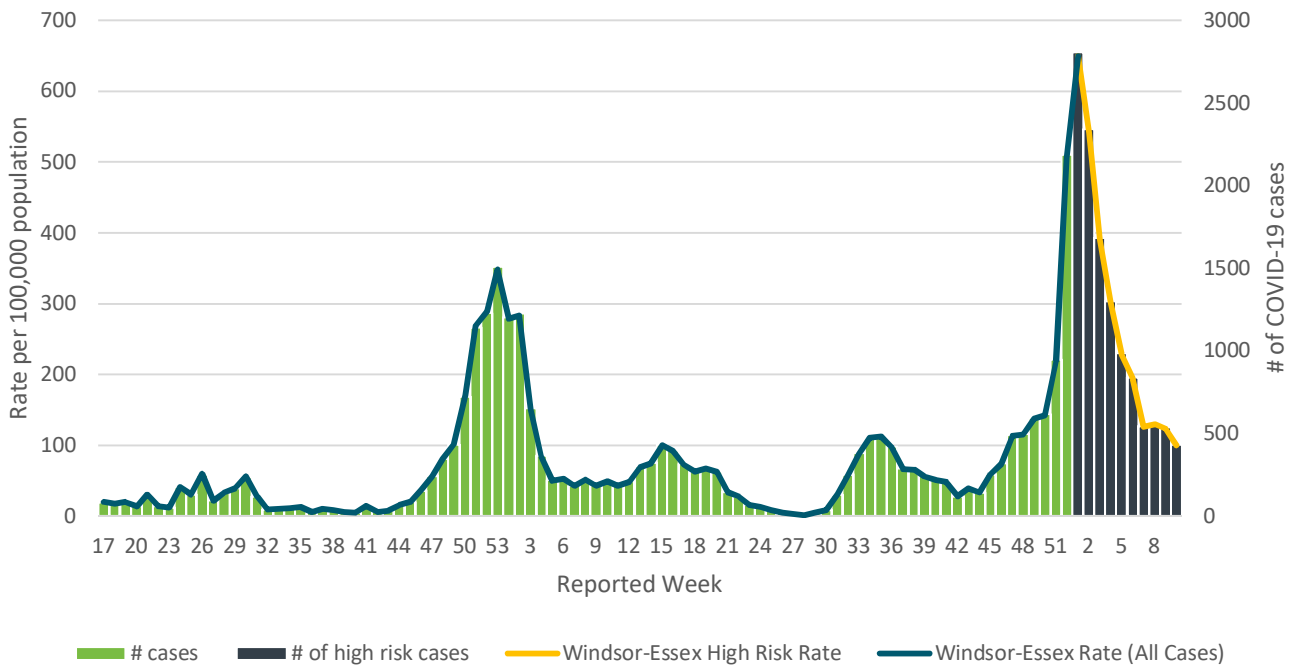
- For the week of March 7 - 13, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 99.7 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 24.4% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity increased by 0.4 percentage points from 13.9% (February 27 – March 5, 2022) to 14.3% (March 6 - 12, 2022).
- Number of in-patient hospitalizations slightly increased for Windsor-Essex County, whereas a decrease was observed across Ontario.
 - ICU admissions declined for Windsor-Essex County and across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for the current week (March 7 - 13, 2022) showed an initial decline followed by a slight increase towards the end of the week.
- Four deaths were reported this week (March 7 - 13, 2022) compared to five deaths reported during the previous week (February 28 – March 6, 2022).
- No outbreaks were declared during this week (March 7 - 13, 2022), compared to two outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 28 – March 6, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 50.2% for residents 12 years and older.
 - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (8.3%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (83.4%).

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

Trends

For the most recent completed week of March 7 - 13, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 99.7 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (February 28 – March 6, 2022; 124.0 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, which is likely an underestimate due to limited testing.

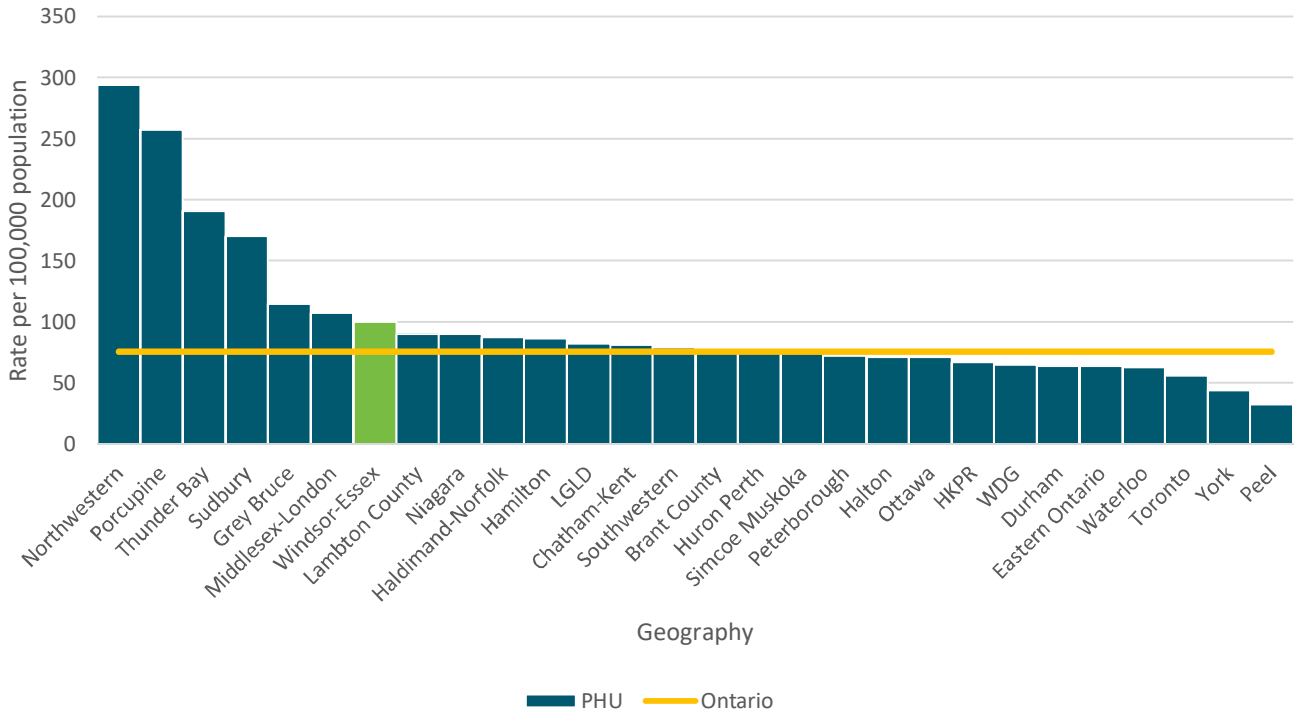
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 10, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [15/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

During the past week (March 7 - 13, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar decline was observed for many other health units except Grey Bruce, Middlesex-London, Hamilton, Southwester, Brant County, Huron Perth, and Waterloo as these health units reported a slight increase in case rate compared to the previous week. 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: March 7 - 13, 2022.

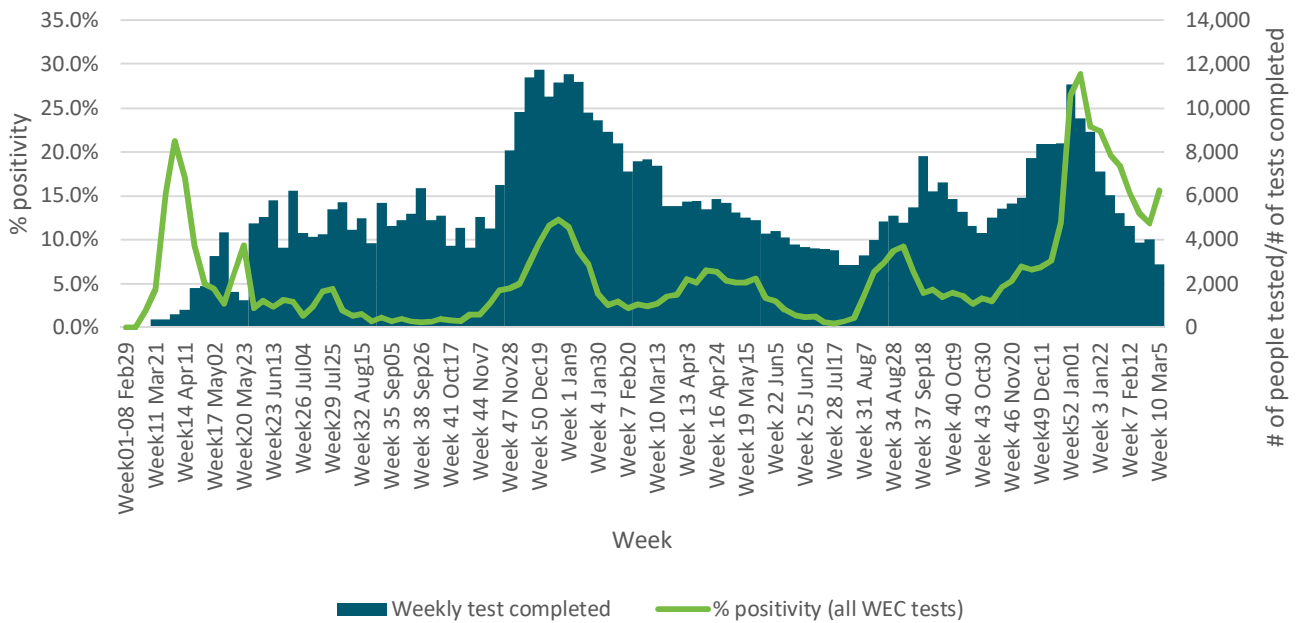


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 15, 2022.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (March 6 - 12, 2022) is 14.3%, which is 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous week (13.9%; February 27 – March 5, 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 12, 2022



Note: Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rate should be interpreted with caution.
Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 15, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

For the most recent week (March 7 - 13, 2022), there have been 31 new hospital admissions compared to 27 new admissions seen during the previous week (February 28 – March 6, 2022; **Figure 4**). Two new COVID-19 patients were admitted to the ICU during this week (March 7 - 13, 2022), which is lower than four ICU admissions reported last week (**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 13, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 15, 2022.

Figure 5: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – March 13, 2022



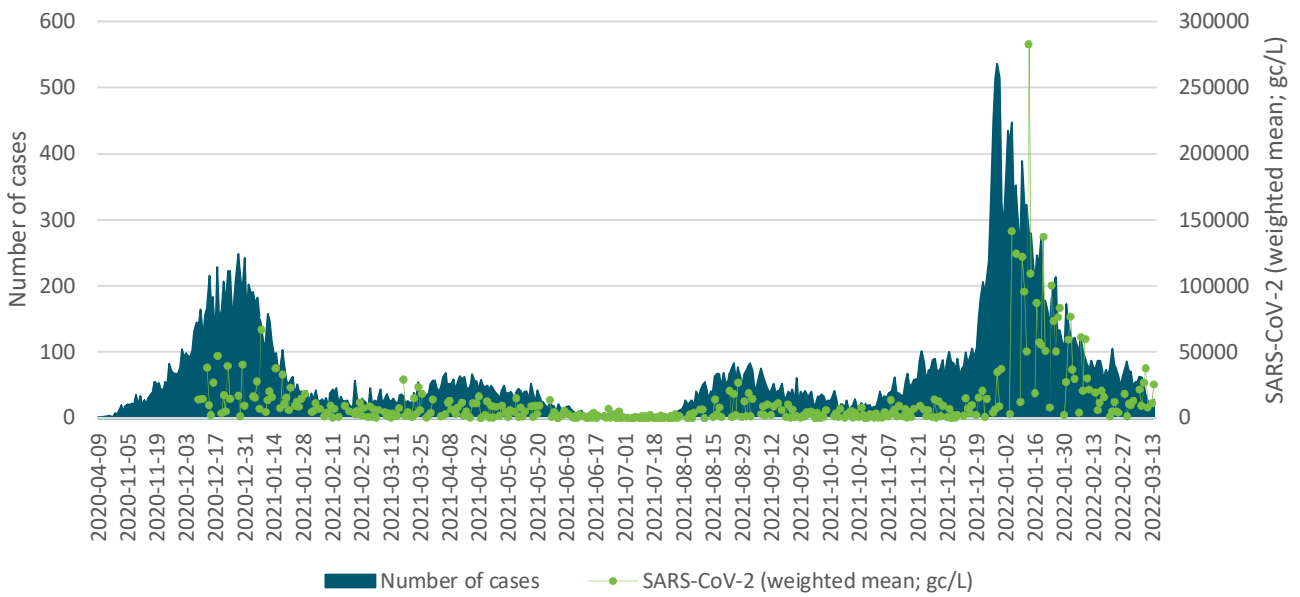
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on March 15, 2022.

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 7 - 13, 2022), the signal intensity remained more or less consistent 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 13, 2022

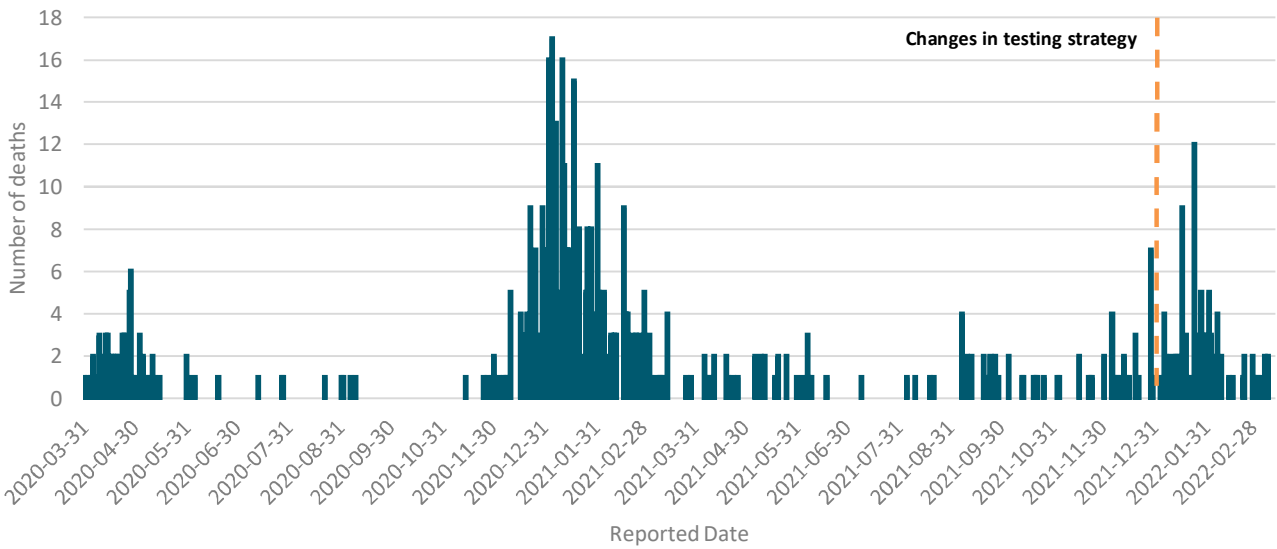


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on March 15, 2022.

Deaths

As of March 13, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 586 COVID-19 related deaths. Four deaths were reported during the current week (March 7 - 13, 2022; **Figure 7**) compared to five deaths reported during the previous week (February 28 – March 6, 2022).

Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – March 13, 2022.

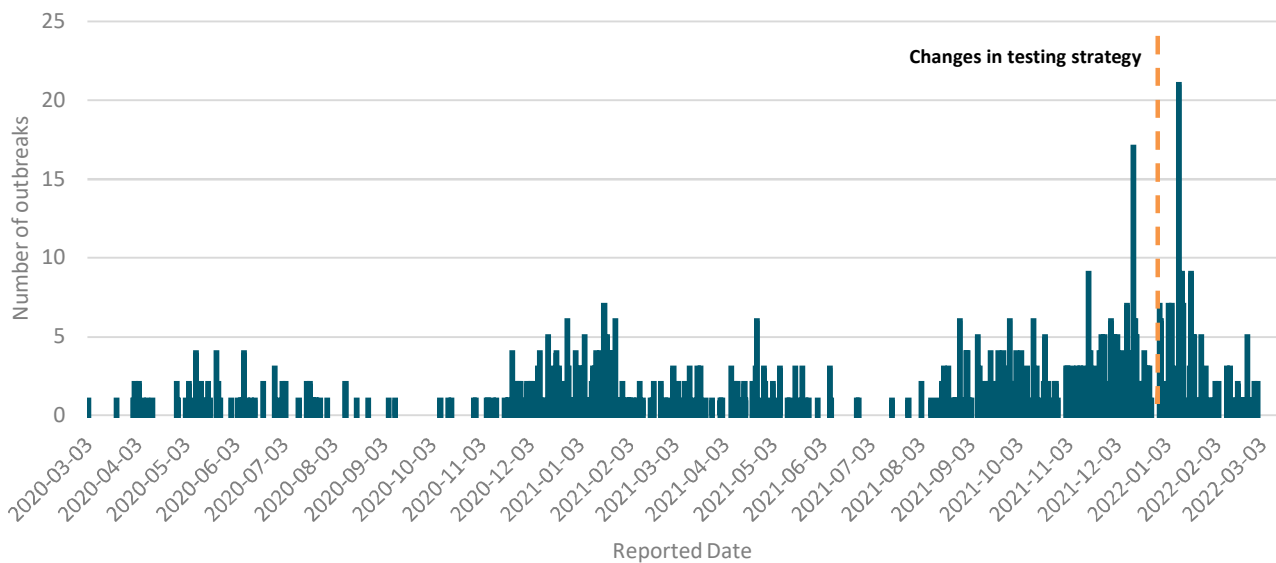


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [15/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

Outbreaks

As of March 13, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has seven active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 8**). No outbreaks were declared during the current week (March 7 - 13, 2022) compared to two outbreaks declared during the previous week (February 28 – March 6, 2022). Due to the changes in testing strategy focusing 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 8: Number of confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks declared by Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – March 13, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [15/Mar/2022] at 10:30 am.

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

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

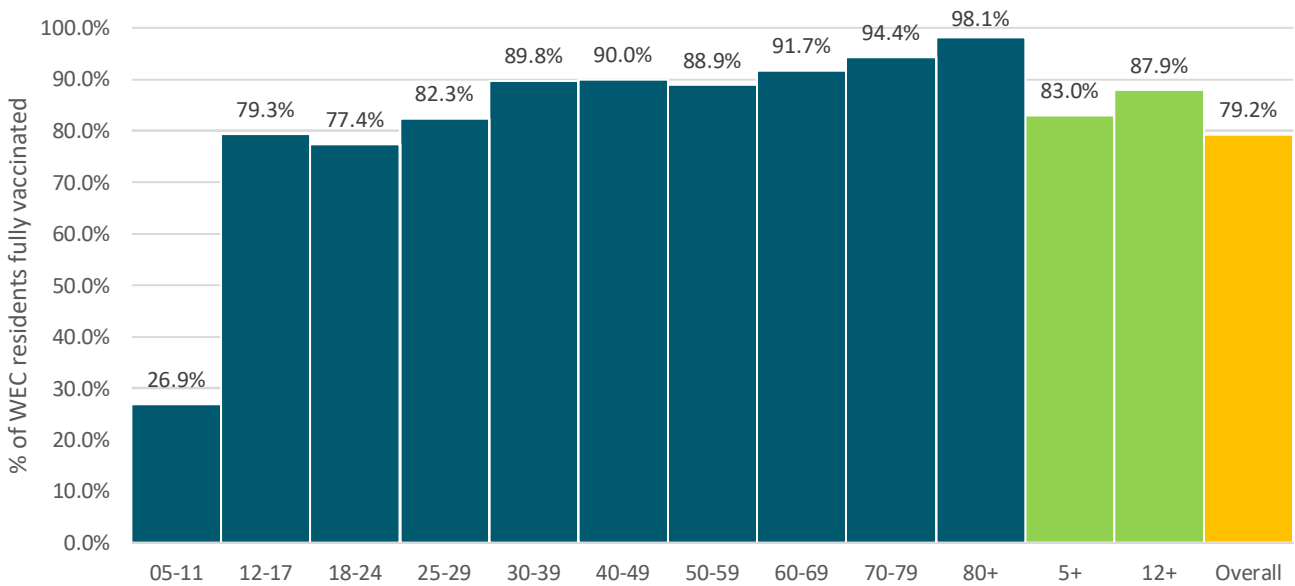
COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Over 1,402 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 10 (March 7 to March 13) compared to 1,684 doses in week 9 (February 28 to March 6). This represents a 16.7% 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 (26.9%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (77.4%) and 12-17 age group (79.3%) (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9: COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 15, 2022

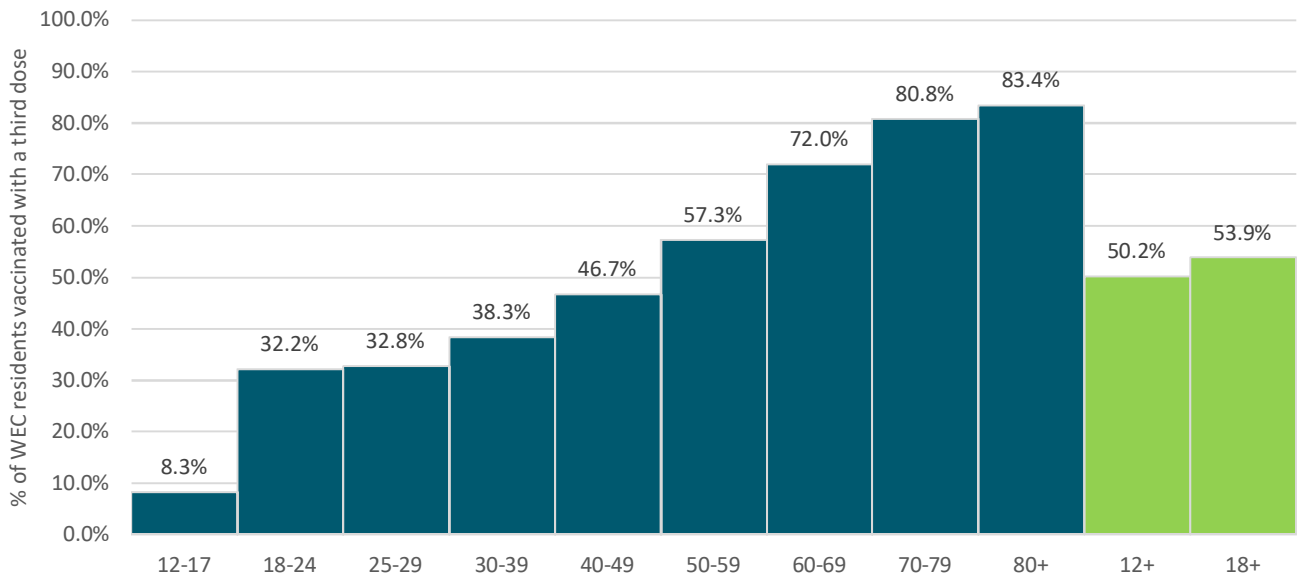


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 15, 2022.

Coverage Rates for Third doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 50.2%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (8.3%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.2%) and 25-29 age group (32.8%) (Figure 10).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: March 15, 2022

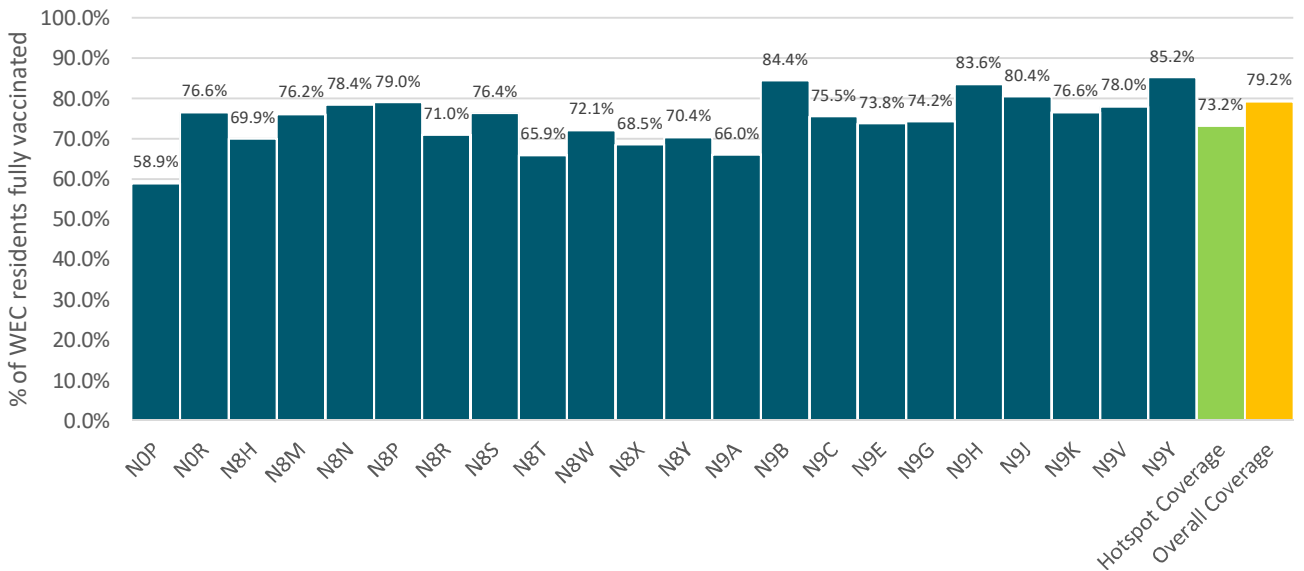


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: March 15, 2022.

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 79.2% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 73.2% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (58.9%), N8T (65.9%) and N9A (66%) 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 15, 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 15, 2022.

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

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