

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Update

May 11th, 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 May 2 - 8, 2022)

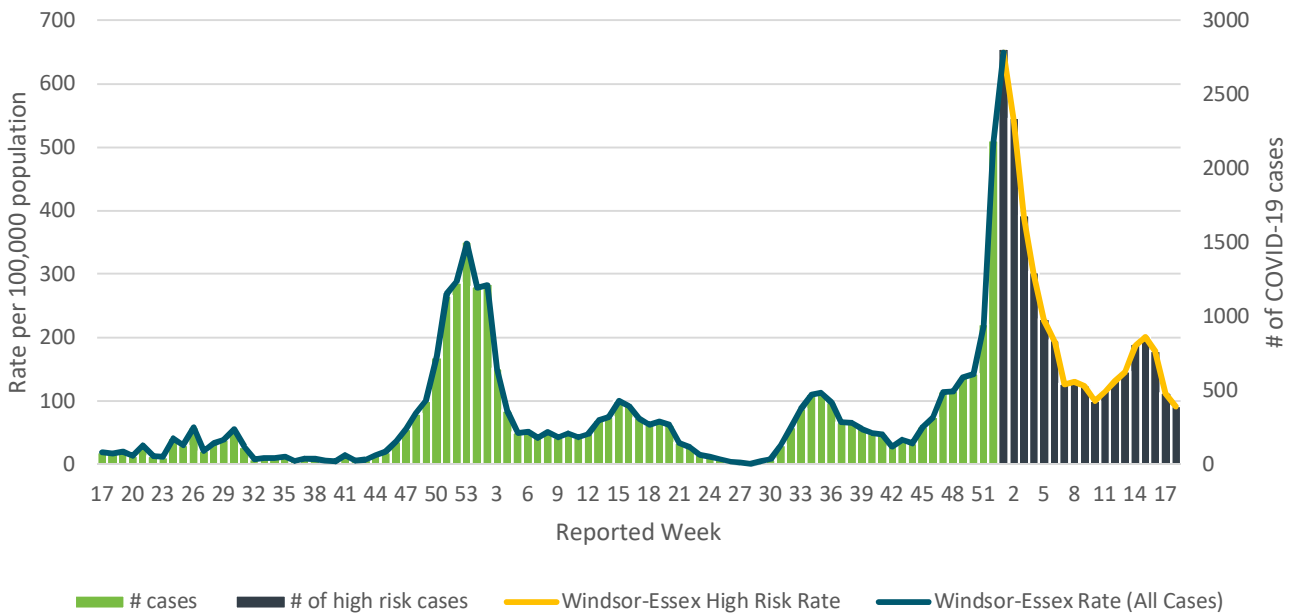
- The weekly high-risk case rate is 91.4 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 18.4% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity remained relatively unchanged from the previous week.
- The number of in-patient hospitalizations remained stable in Windsor-Essex County but declined across Ontario.
 - ICU admissions remains low in Windsor-Essex County and Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for May 2 - 8, 2022 slightly declined from last week.
- Eight deaths were reported this week (May 2 - 8, 2022), compared to three deaths reported during the previous week (April 25 – May 1, 2022).
- Four outbreaks were declared during the current week (May 2 - 8, 2022), compared to eleven outbreaks declared during the previous week (April 25 – May 1, 2022).
- From January to April, 2022, a total of 2095 COVID-19 infections were reported among residents and staff in high risk settings, of which 74.6% cases were reported among the staff members.
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 51.8% for residents 12 years and older.
 - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.8%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (88.2%).

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

Trends

For the week of May 2 - 8, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 91.4 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (April 25 – May 1, 2022; 112.0 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a decline in case rate was observed until mid-March, followed by an increase afterwards, although a decline was observed during the last three weeks. Estimates of the case rate are likely an underestimate due to limited testing capacity.

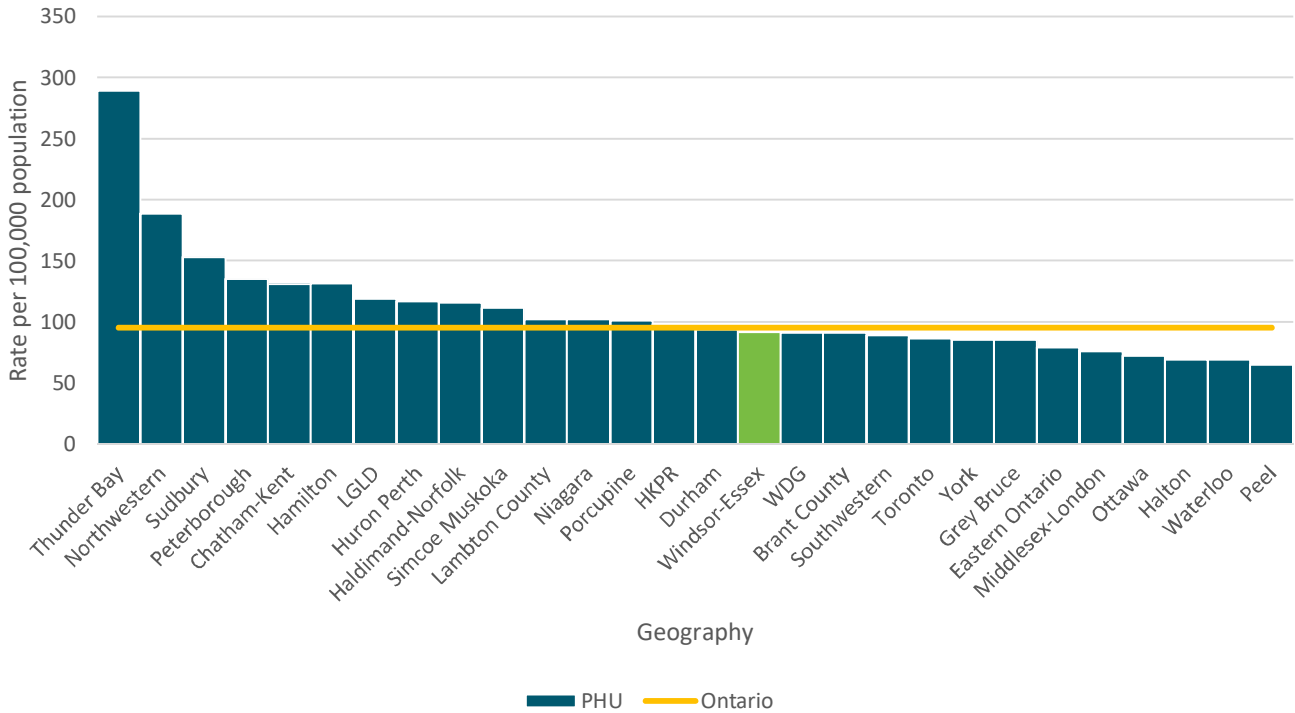
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 18, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [10/May/2022] at 9:30 am.

During the past week (May 2 - 8, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar decline was observed for all health units across Ontario except Huron Perth, which reported a slight increase in their case rate (**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: May 2 - 8, 2022.

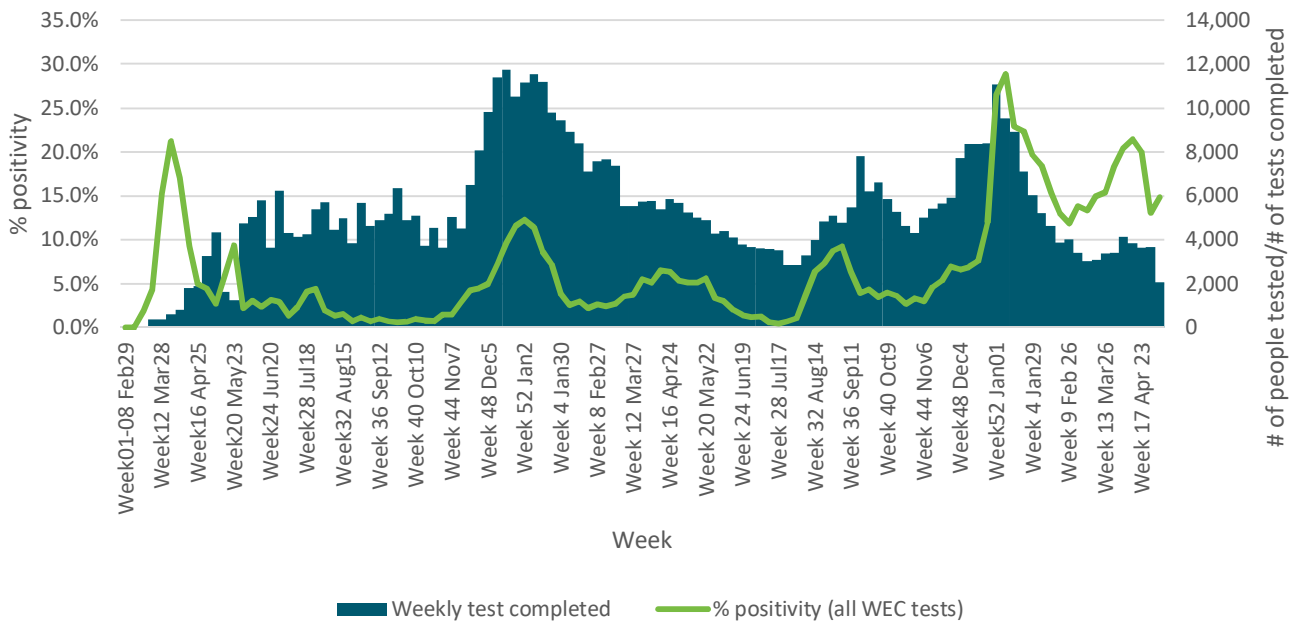


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 10, 2022.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (May 1 - 7, 2022) is 14.9%, which is 1.8 percentage points higher than the previous week (13.1%; April 24 - 30, 2022). After peaking in mid-April, the percent positivity decreased for two weeks although a slight increase was noted for the most recent week.

Figure 3: Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to May 7, 2022

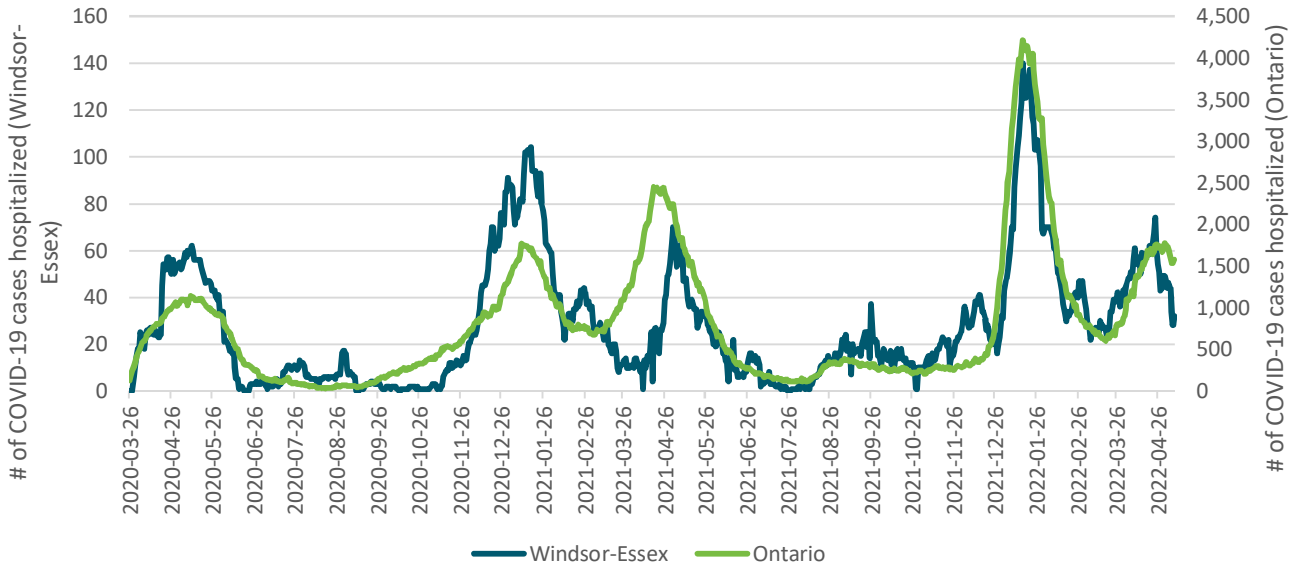


Note: Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rates should be interpreted with caution.
Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 10, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

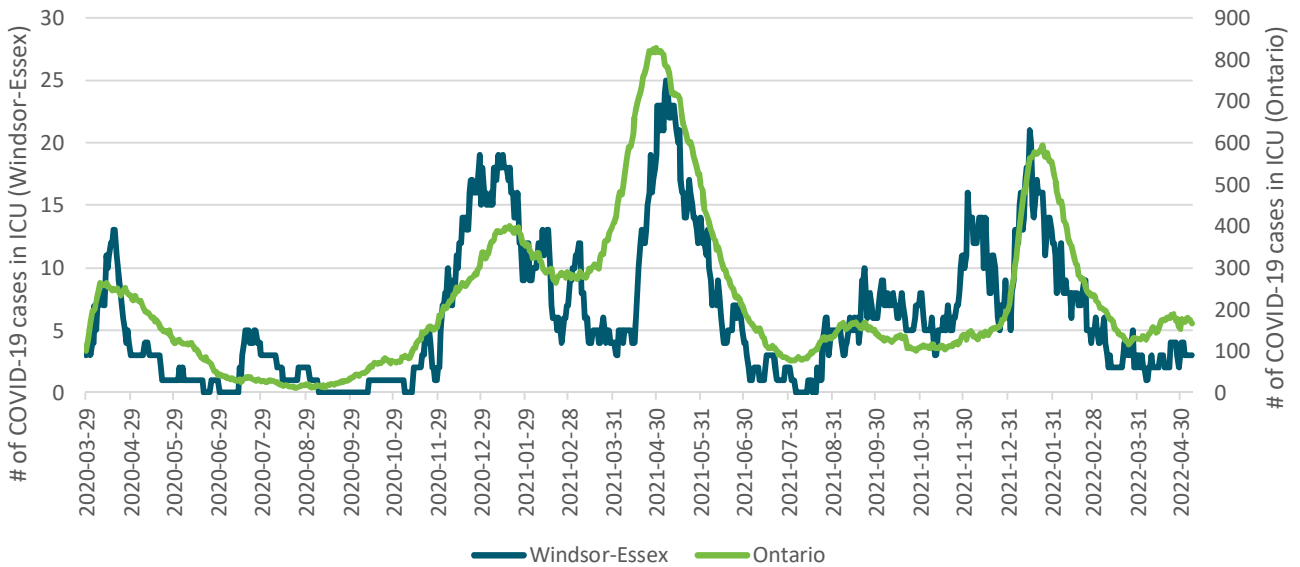
For the most recent week (May 2 - 8, 2022), there have been 46 new hospital admissions which is slightly higher than 43 admissions reported during the previous week (April 25 – May 1, 2022; **Figure 4**). Hospital admissions remained relatively unchanged this week for Windsor-Essex and a consistent decline was observed across Ontario. Similar to the previous week, two new COVID-19 patient were admitted to ICU this week (May 2 - 8, 2022; **Figure 5**). ICU admissions remain stable at low levels in both Windsor-Essex County and Ontario.

Figure 4: Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – May 8, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 10, 2022.

Figure 5: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – May 8, 2022



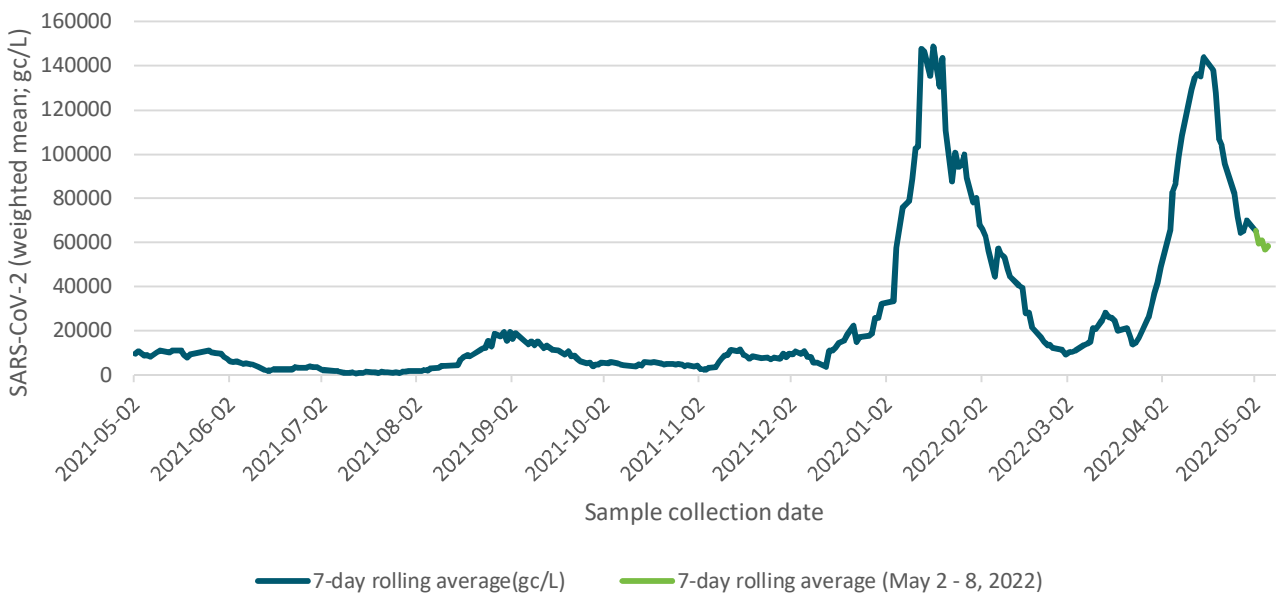
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on May 10, 2022.

Local Wastewater Surveillance

Research has shown that a significant proportion of individuals with COVID-19 infections shed the virus (SARS-CoV-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.

Figure 6 shows the population weighted 7-day rolling average of SARS-CoV-2 signal in wastewater for all treatment plants in Windsor-Essex County. From the last week, the signal intensity showed a slight decline throughout this week. Despite the declining levels since mid-April, the viral signal remains significantly higher than the low levels observed during October 2021.

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

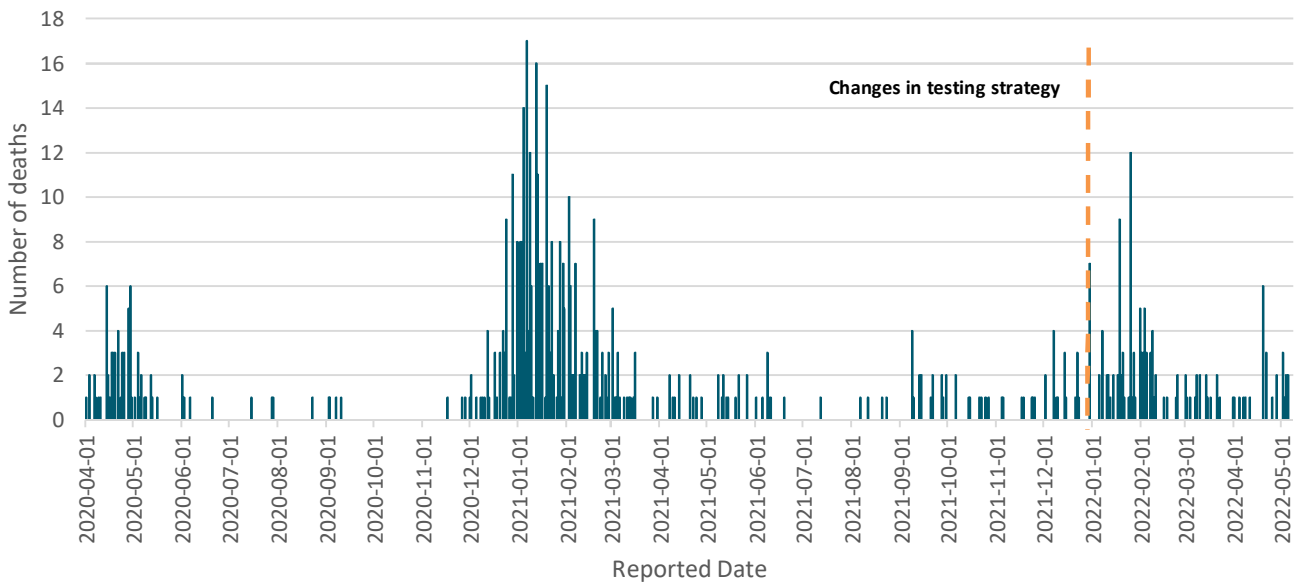


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on May 10, 2022.

Deaths

As of May 1, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 618 COVID-19 related deaths. Eight deaths were reported during the current week (May 2 - 8, 2022; **Figure 7**), compared to three deaths reported during the previous week (April 25 – May 1, 2022). Of the eight deaths, all cases were fully vaccinated with more than two doses and two were residents of a long term care home.

Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – May 8, 2022.

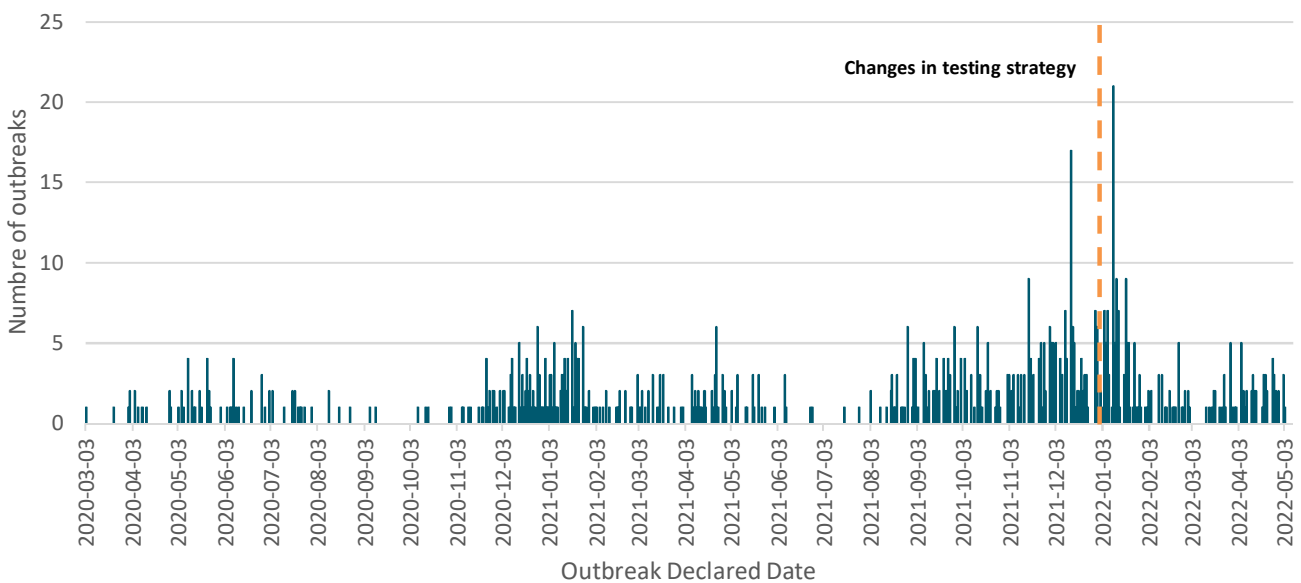


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [10/May/2022] at 9:30 am.

Outbreaks

As of May 8, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 22 active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 8**). Four outbreaks were declared during this week (May 2 - 8, 2022) compared to 11 outbreaks declared during the previous week (April 25 – May 1, 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 – May 8, 2022.

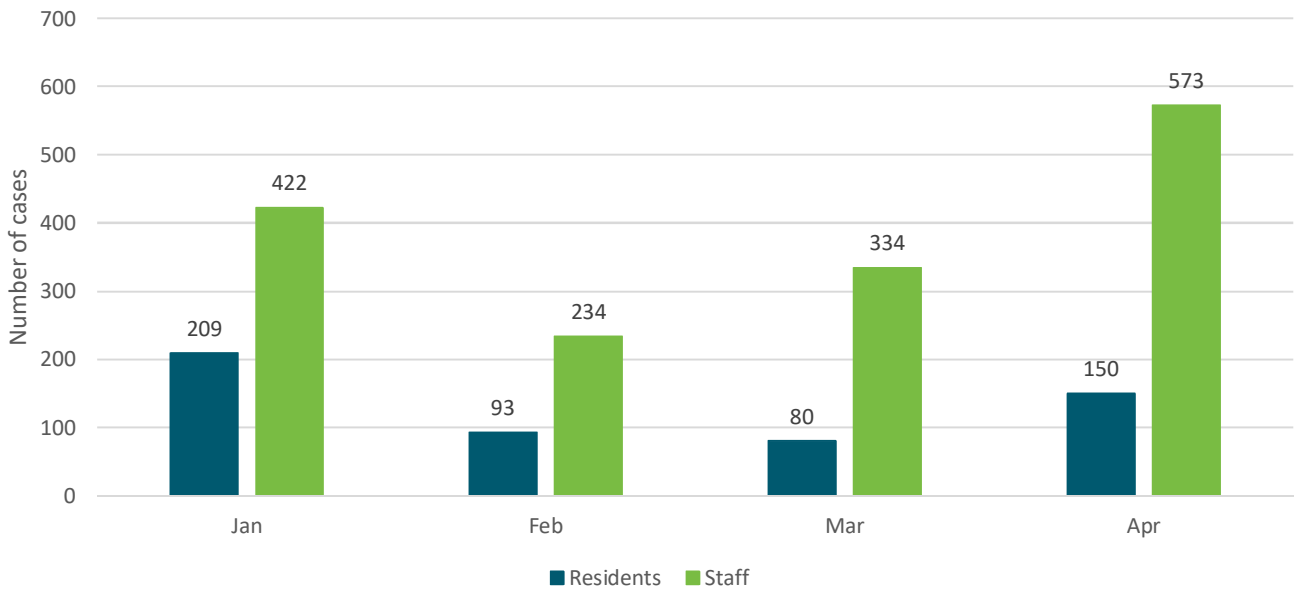


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [10/May/2022] at 9:30 am.

COVID-19 infections among staff and residents

Figure 9 illustrates the number of monthly COVID-19 infections among the residents and staff at high risk institutional settings. Overall, the number of staff infections have increased since February and a sharp increase was observed in April. Similarly, a positive trend can be seen for resident infections since February. From January to April, 2022, a total of 1563 (74.6%) infections were reported among staff and 532 (25.4%) infections were reported among residents of long term care homes, retirement homes, and other high risk congregate settings.

Figure 9: COVID-19 infections reported among Windsor-Essex County residents and staff members in high risk settings: January 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [10/May/2022] at 9:30 am.

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

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

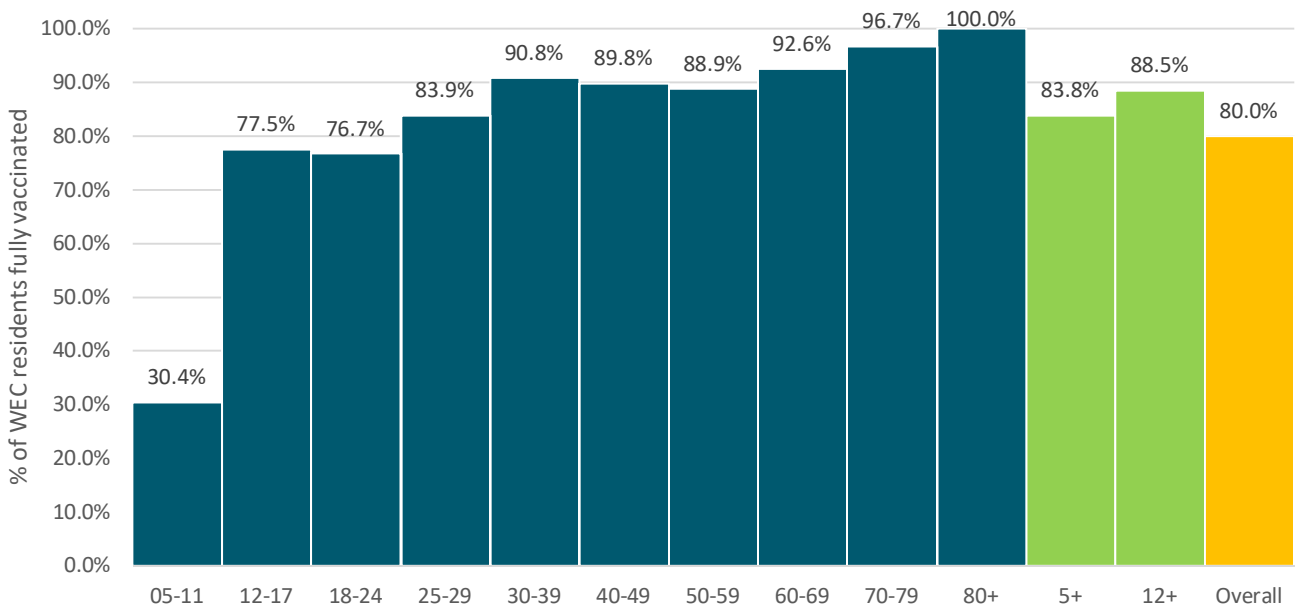
COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Over 3,774 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 18 (May 2 to May 8) compared to 3,999 doses in week 17 (April 25 to May 1). This represents a 5.6% decrease between the two weeks.

Second Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group

Overall, the 5-11 age group has the lowest coverage rate for two vaccines (30.4%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (76.7%) and 12-17 age group (77.5%) (**Figure 10**).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Second Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: May 10, 2022.



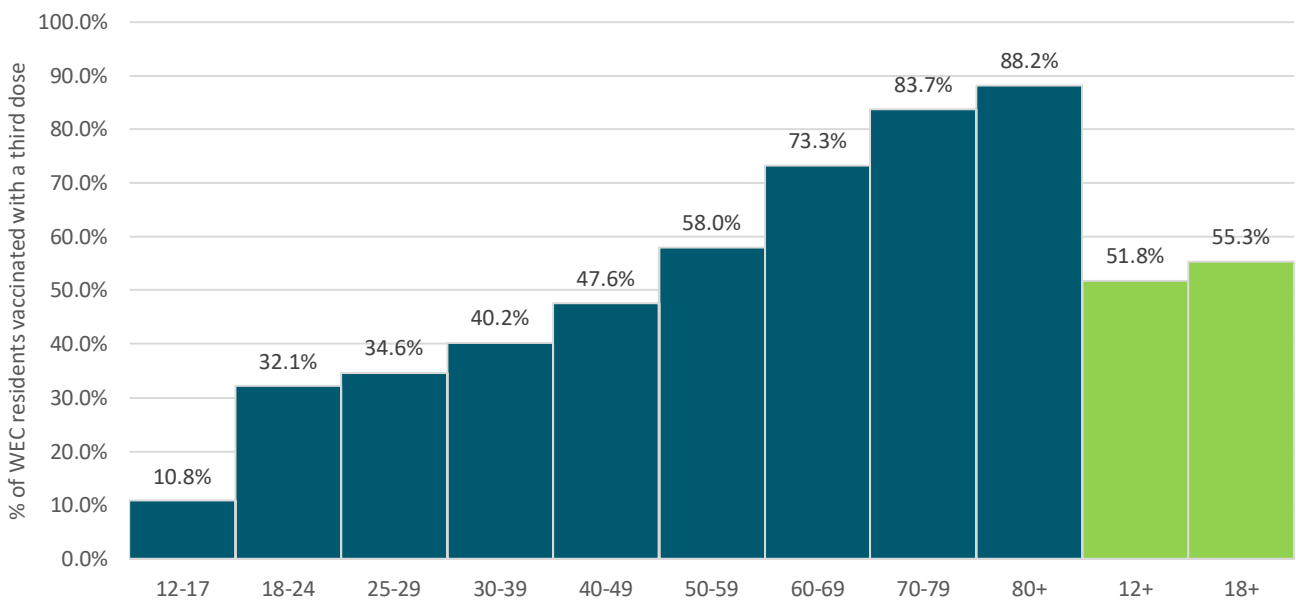
Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 10, 2022



Third Dose Coverage Rates by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 51.8%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.8%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.1%) and 25-29 age group (34.6%) (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: May 10, 2022.

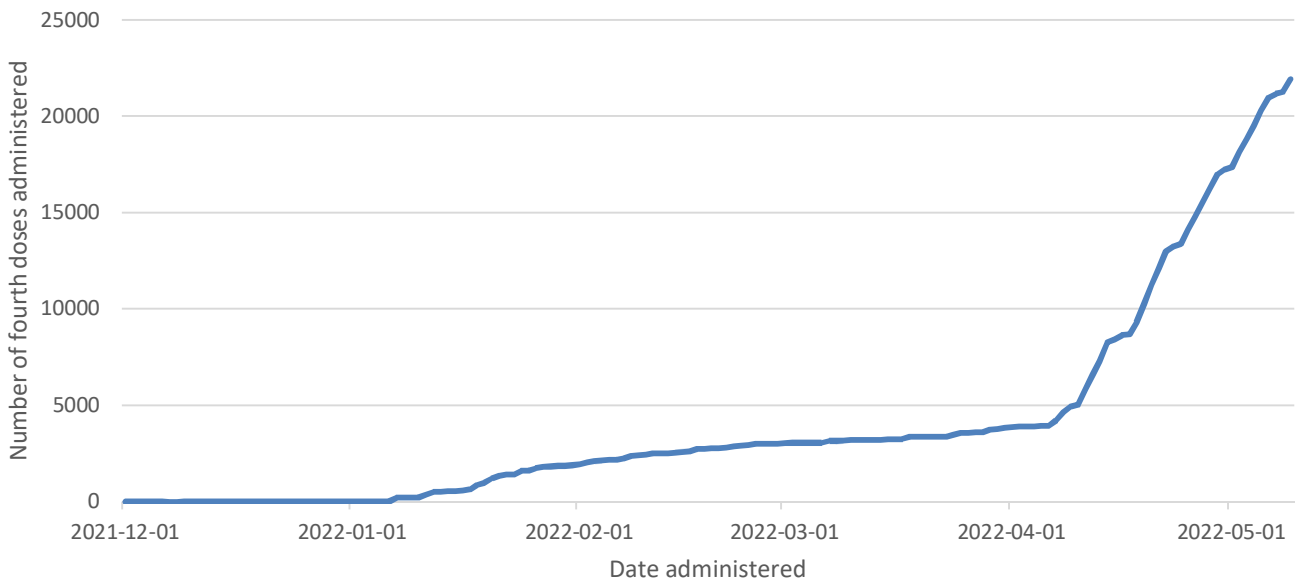


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 10, 2022

Cumulative Fourth Doses Administered Over Time

A total of 21,931 fourth doses have been administered among Windsor and Essex County residents since December 2021 (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12: Cumulative Fourth Doses Administered Among Windsor and Essex County Residents over time: May 10, 2022

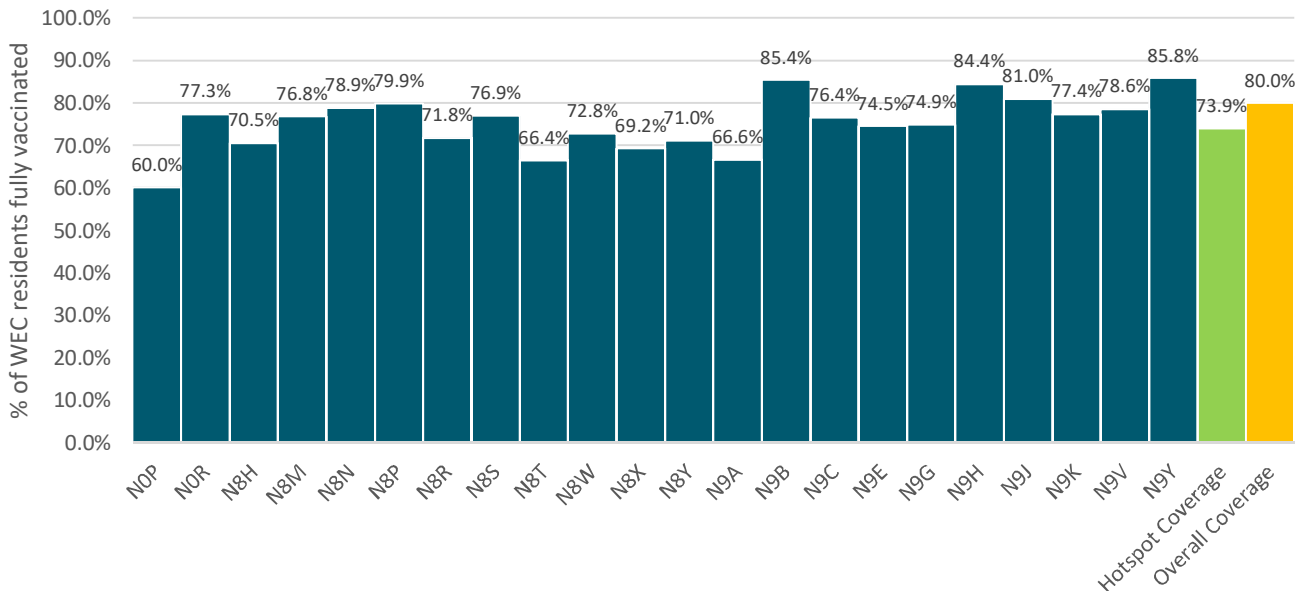


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: May 10, 2022

Second Dose Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall second dose coverage rate is 80.0% and the coverage rate for those vaccinated with two doses is 73.9% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (60.1%), N8T (66.5%) and N9A (66.7%) have the lowest coverage rates in Windsor and Essex County (**Figure 13**).

Figure 13: COVID-19 Second Dose Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor and Essex County: May 10, 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: May 10, 2022.

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

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