

## Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiologic Update

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 February 7 - 13, 2022)

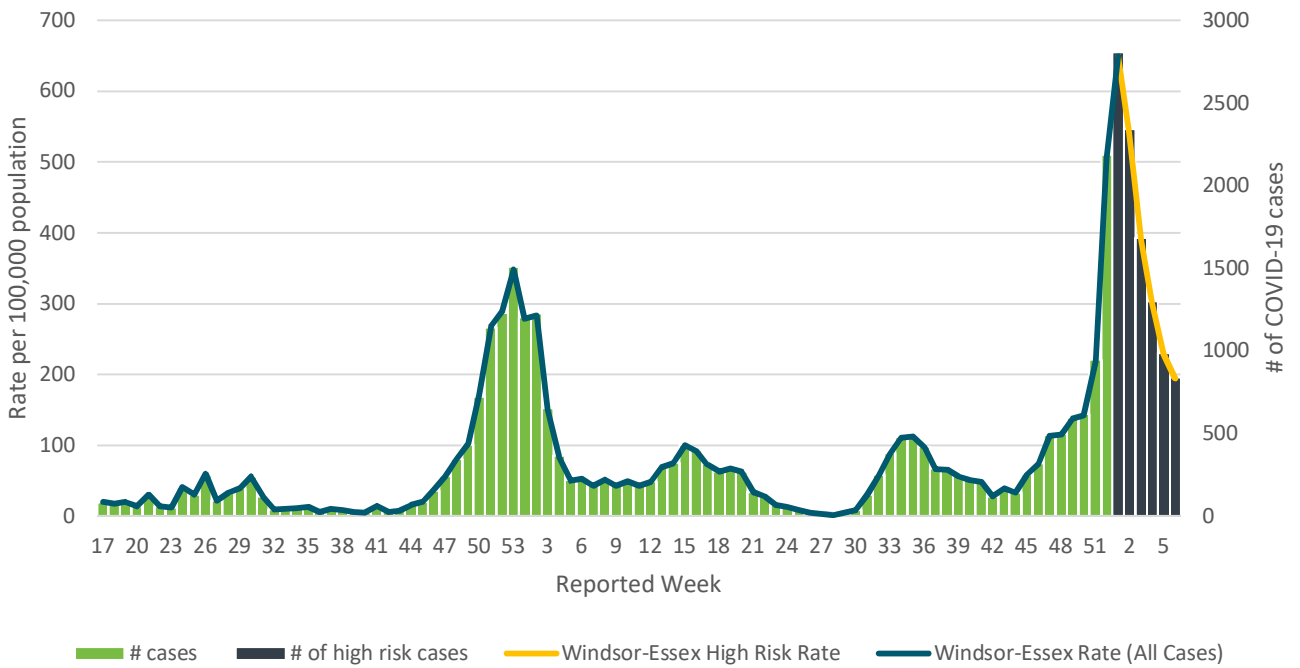
- For the week of February 7 - 13, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 194.4 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 16.0% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity decreased by 2.7% percentage points from 19.1% (January 30 – February 5, 2022) to 16.4% (February 6 - 12, 2022).
- Hospitalizations decreased locally and across Ontario.
  - For ICU admissions, a continued decline was observed for Windsor-Essex County and across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for the current week (February 7 - 13, 2022) showed an initial increase followed by a decline towards the end of the week.
- Seven deaths were reported this week (February 7 - 13, 2022) compared to 17 deaths reported during the last week (January 31 – February 6, 2022).
- Similar to the numbers reported during the previous week (January 31 – February 6, 2022), six outbreaks were declared this week (February 7 - 13, 2022).
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 52.6% for residents 18 years and older. WEC residents 18 to 24 years old have the lowest third dose coverage rate (30.7%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (82.6%).

### COVID-19 Cases in Windsor-Essex County

#### *Trends*

For the most recent completed week of February 7 - 13, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 194.4 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (January 31 – February 6, 2022; 228.1 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a constant decrease in case rate has been observed, which is likely an underestimate due to limited testing.

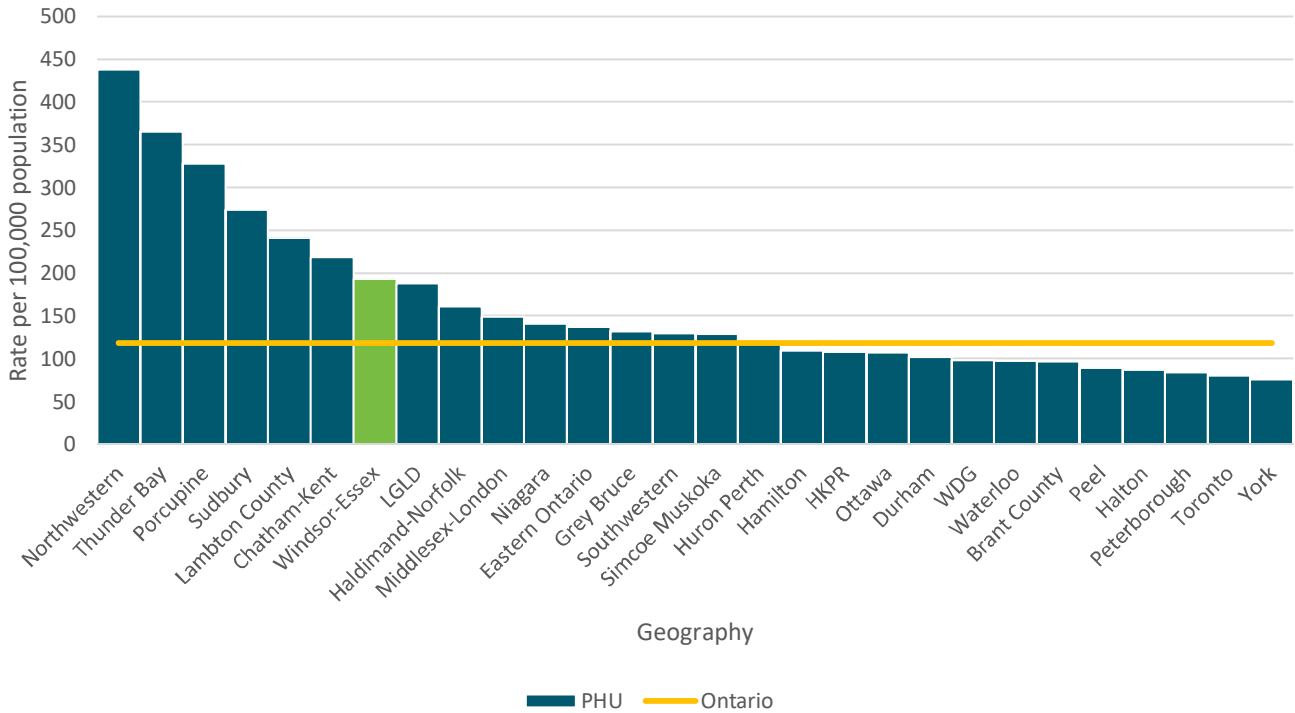
**Figure 1:** Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 6, 2022.



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

During the past week (February 7 - 13, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar trend can be observed across all other health units across Ontario. 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: February 7 - 13, 2022.

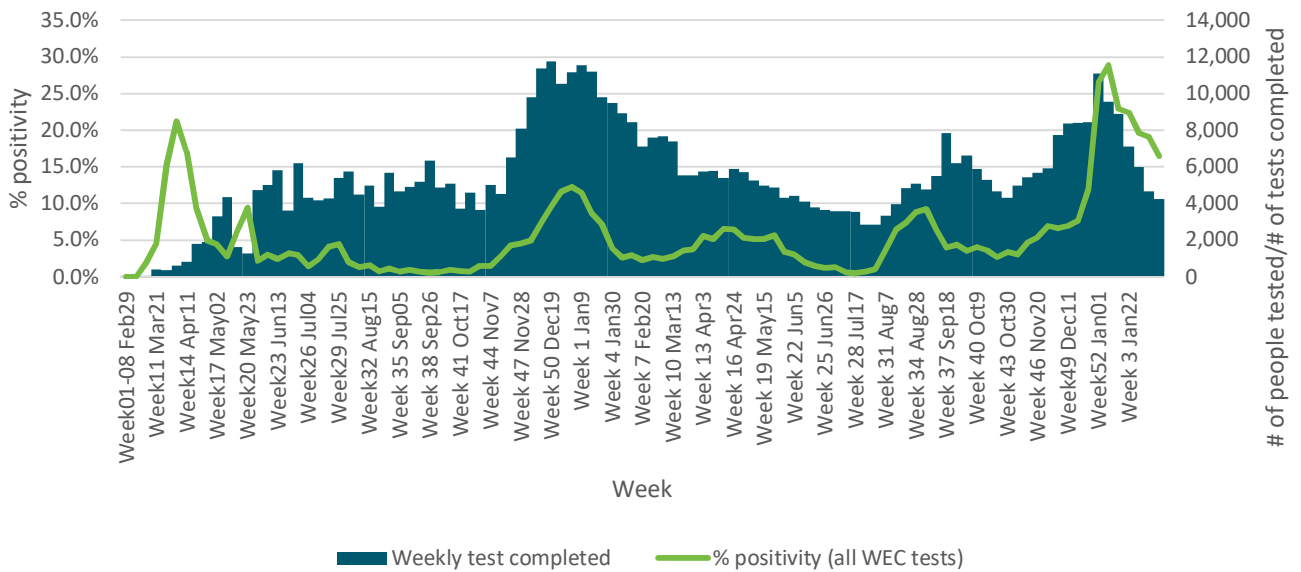


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 15, 2022

*Percent Positivity*

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (February 6 - 12, 2022) is 16.4%, a decrease of 2.7% compared to the previous week (19.1%; January 30 – February 5, 2022). After a sharp increase during mid December 2021, there has been a consistent decline in percent positivity since January 2022, and a significant decline was observed during the current week (February 6 – 12, 2022).

**Figure 3:** Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to February 12, 2022

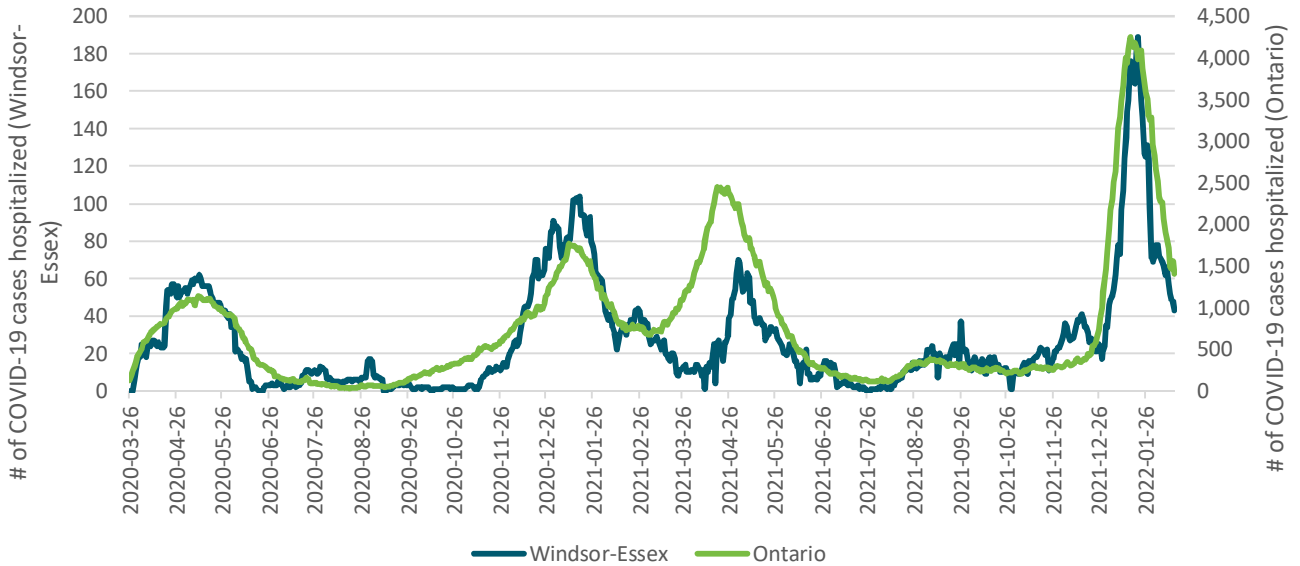


**Source:** COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 15, 2022.

*Hospitalization and ICU Admissions*

For the most recent week (February 7 - 13, 2022), there have been 53 new hospital admissions compared to 84 new admissions seen during the previous week (January 31 – February 6, 2022; **Figure 4**). Four new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU during this week (February 7 - 13, 2022), a decrease of three compared to the number of ICU admissions reported last week (**Figure 5**). After peaking in mid January, the number of hospitalizations has been consistently decreasing for both Windsor-Essex County and Ontario. Similar trend of declining number of ICU admissions can be observed for Windsor-Essex County as well as Ontario.

**Figure 4:** Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – February 13, 2022



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

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



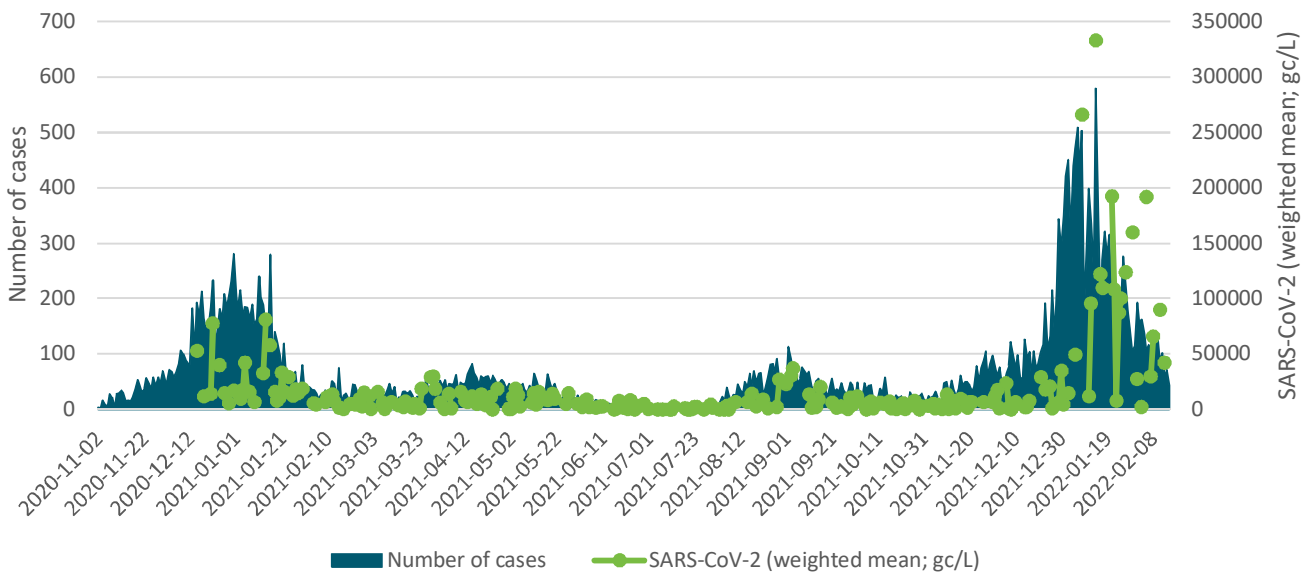
**Source:** COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on February 15, 2022.

*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 (February 7 - 13, 2022), the signal intensity remained more or less stable with an initial increase at the beginning followed by a decline towards the end of the week (**Figure 6**).

**Figure 6:** COVID-19 wastewater viral signal in Windsor-Essex County: August 1, 2021 – February 13, 2022

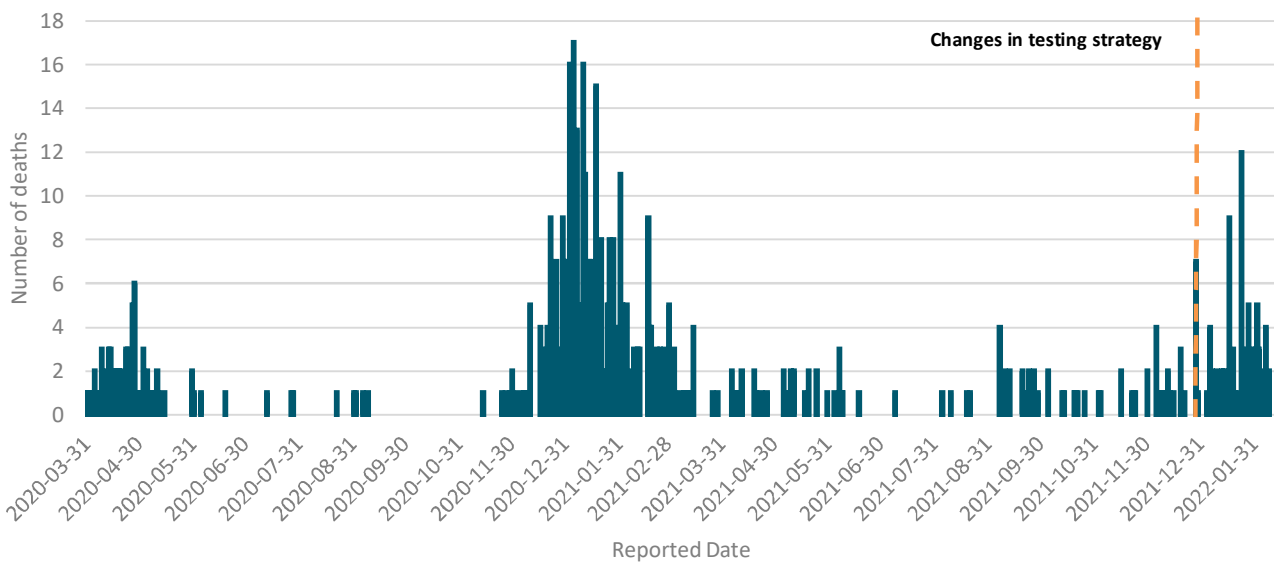


**Source:** Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on February 15, 2022.

*Deaths*

As of February 13, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 572 COVID-19 related deaths with seven deaths reported during the current week (February 7 - 13, 2022; **Figure 7**) compared to 17 deaths reported during the previous week (January 31 – February 6, 2022).

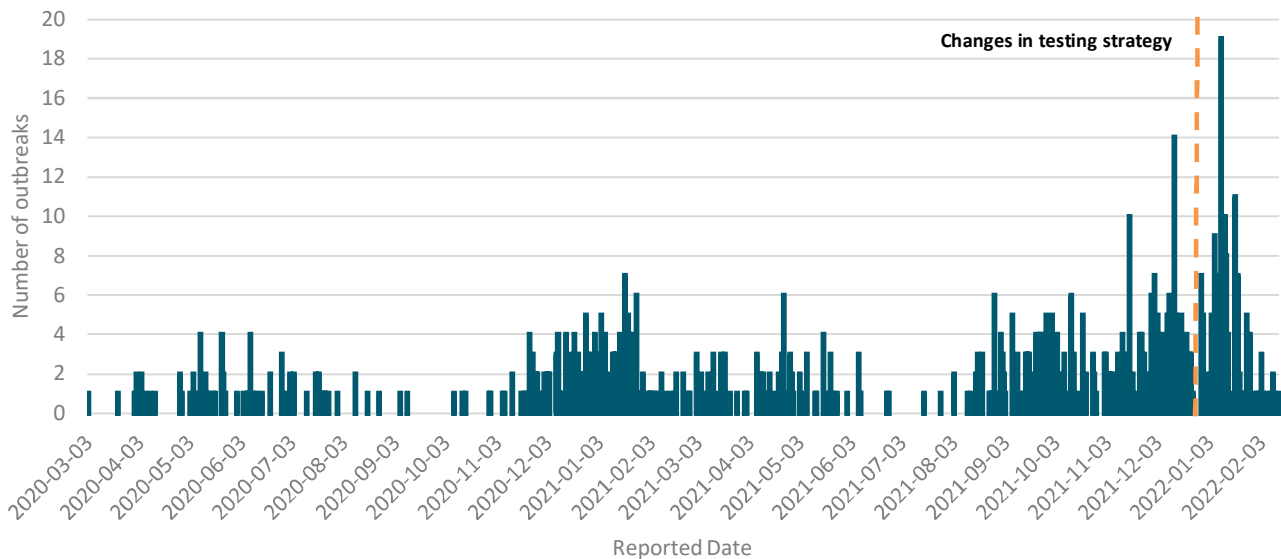
**Figure 7:** Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – February 13, 2022.



## Outbreaks

As of February 13, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 38 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Similar to the previous week, six new outbreaks were declared during the current week (February 7 - 13, 2022; **Figure 8**). Due to the changes in testing strategy focussing 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 – February 13, 2022.



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

For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>



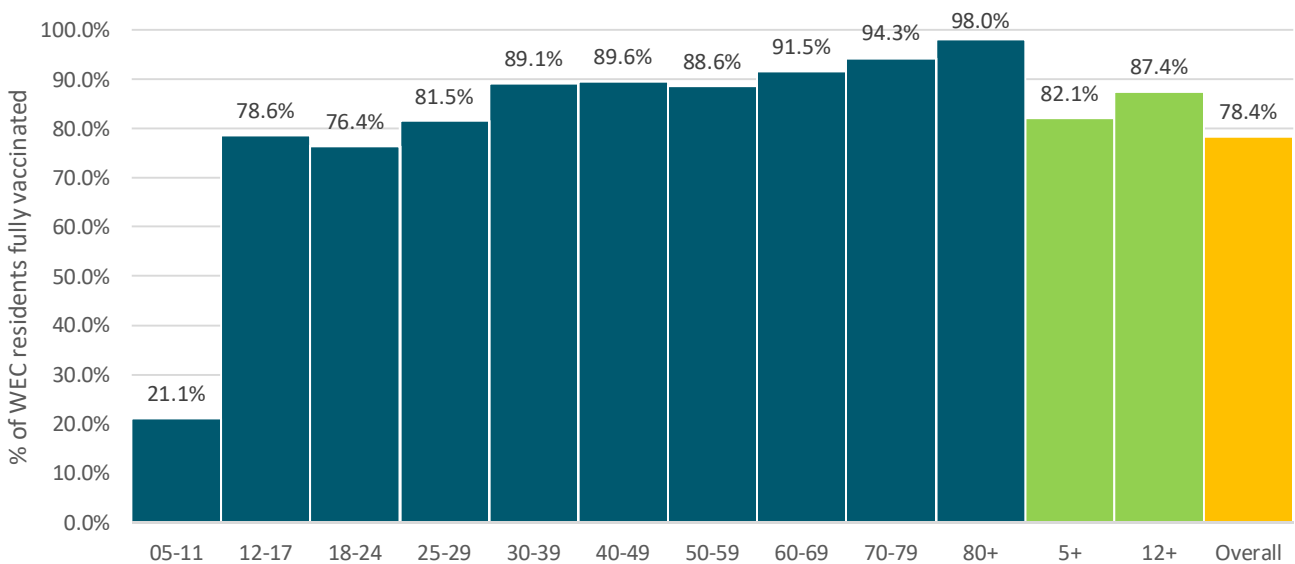
**COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County**

Approximately 3,985 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 6 (February 7 to February 13) compared to 4,272 doses in week 5 (January 31 to February 6). This represents a 6.7% 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 (21.1%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (76.4%) and 12-17 age group (78.6%) (**Figure 9**).

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

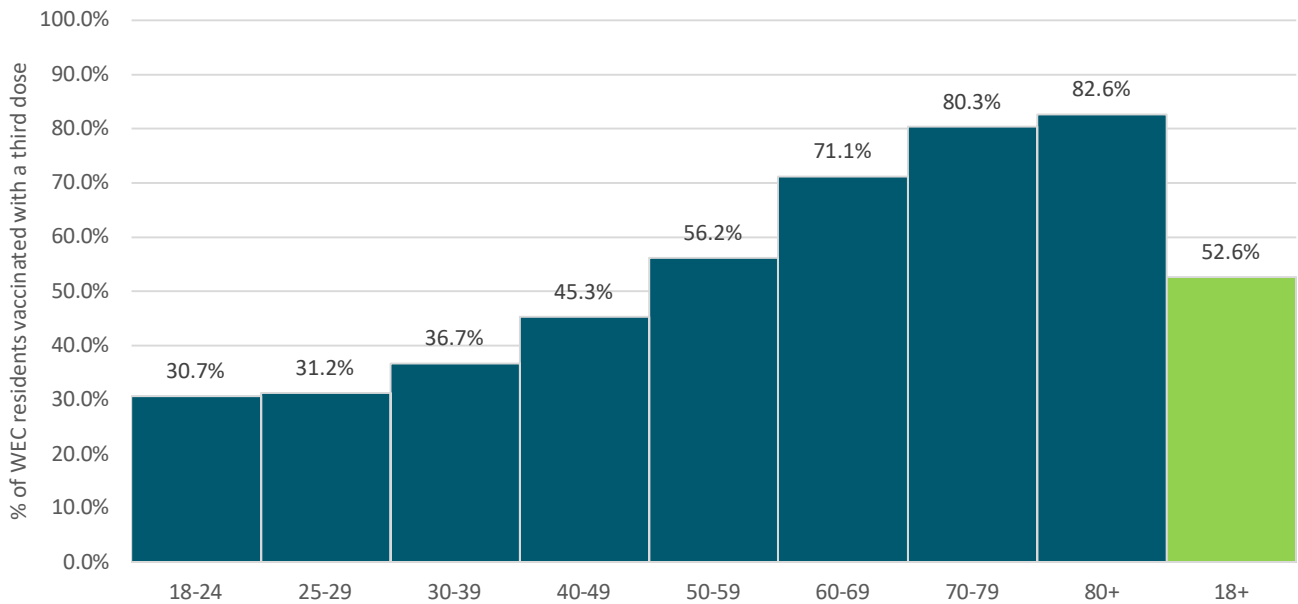


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on February 15, 2022.

### Coverage Rates for Third Doses by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 52.6%. Comparing across ages, the 18-24 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (30.7%), followed by those in the 25-29 age group (31.2%) and 30-39 age group (36.7%; **Figure 10**).

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

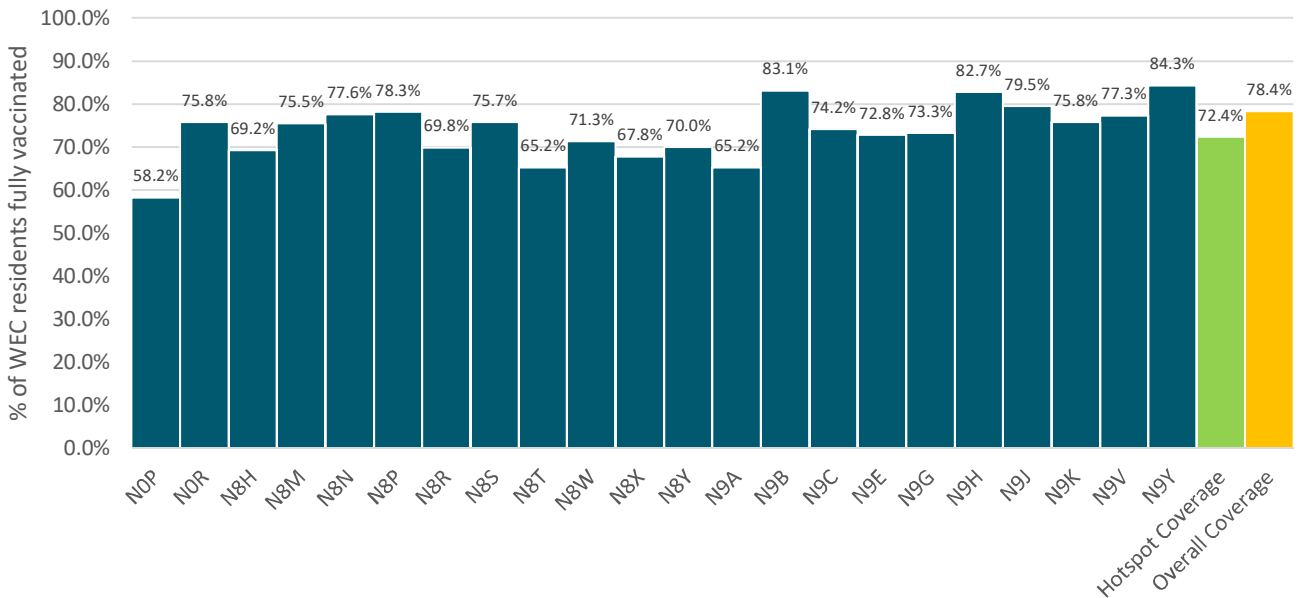


**Source:** Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on February 15, 2022

*Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)*

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 78.4% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 72.4% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (58.2%), N9A (65.2%) and N8T (65.2%) 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: February 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 February 15, 2022

For more information on local COVID-19 vaccine statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/vaccination-stats>