

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiologic Update

February 2nd, 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 January 24 - 30, 2022)

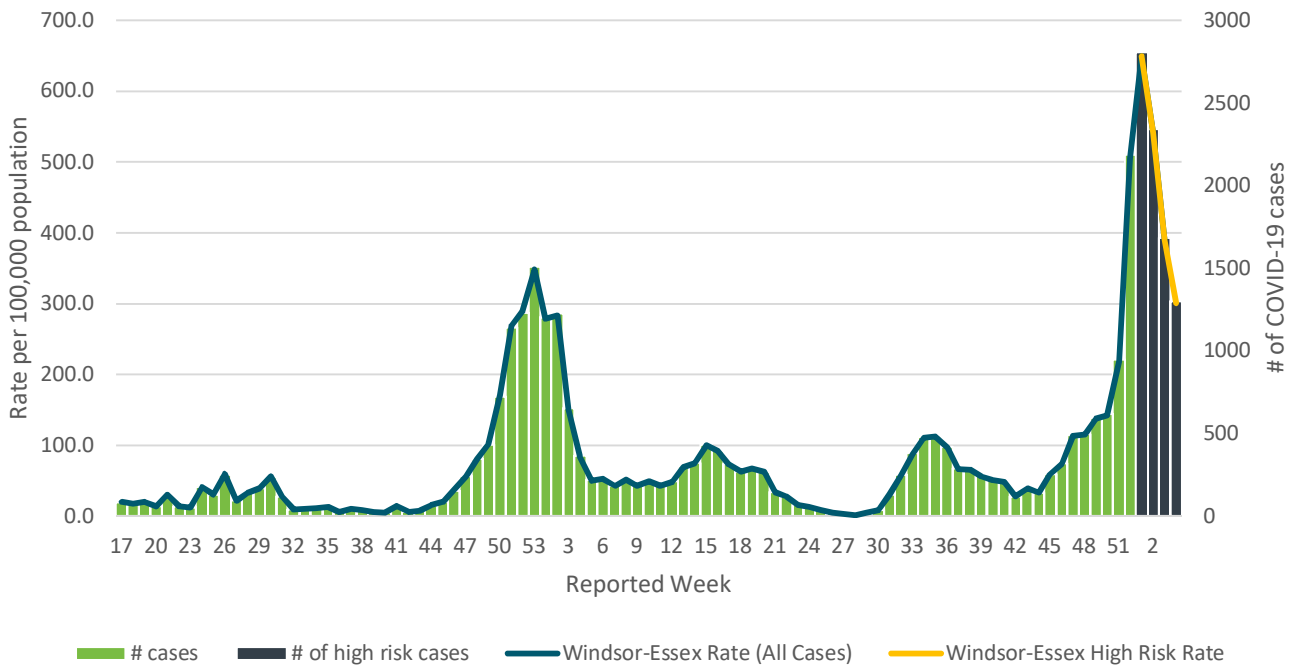
- For the week of January 24 - 30, 2022, the high-risk case rate is 300.8 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 29.4% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity decreased by 0.5 percentage points from 21.6% (January 17 - 23, 2022) to 21.1% (January 24 - 30, 2022).
- Hospitalizations decreased locally and across Ontario.
 - For ICU admissions, a slight decline was observed for both Windsor-Essex County and in Ontario.
- Wastewater data is unavailable for the current week (January 24 -30, 2022). For the previous week, a decline in viral signals of COVID-19 was observed towards the end of the week on January 23, 2022.
- From December 1, 2021 – January 30, 2022, 82.4% of confirmed COVID-19 cases were symptomatic and 17.6% cases were asymptomatic.
 - Among the symptomatic cases, cough, nasal congestion, headache, sore throat and fatigue/malaise were the most commonly reported symptoms.
- 21 deaths were reported this week (January 24 - 30, 2022) compared to 16 deaths reported during the last week (January 17 – 23, 2022).
- Compared to 18 outbreaks declared during the previous week (January 17 - 23, 2022), only 12 outbreaks were declared this week (January 24 – 30, 2022).

COVID-19 Cases in Windsor-Essex County

Trends

For the most completed week January 24 - 30, 2022, the high risk case rate was 300.8 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (January 17 - 23, 2022; 389.2 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). Since the changes in testing strategy on December 31, 2021, a decrease in case rate has been observed, which is likely an underestimate due to limited testing.

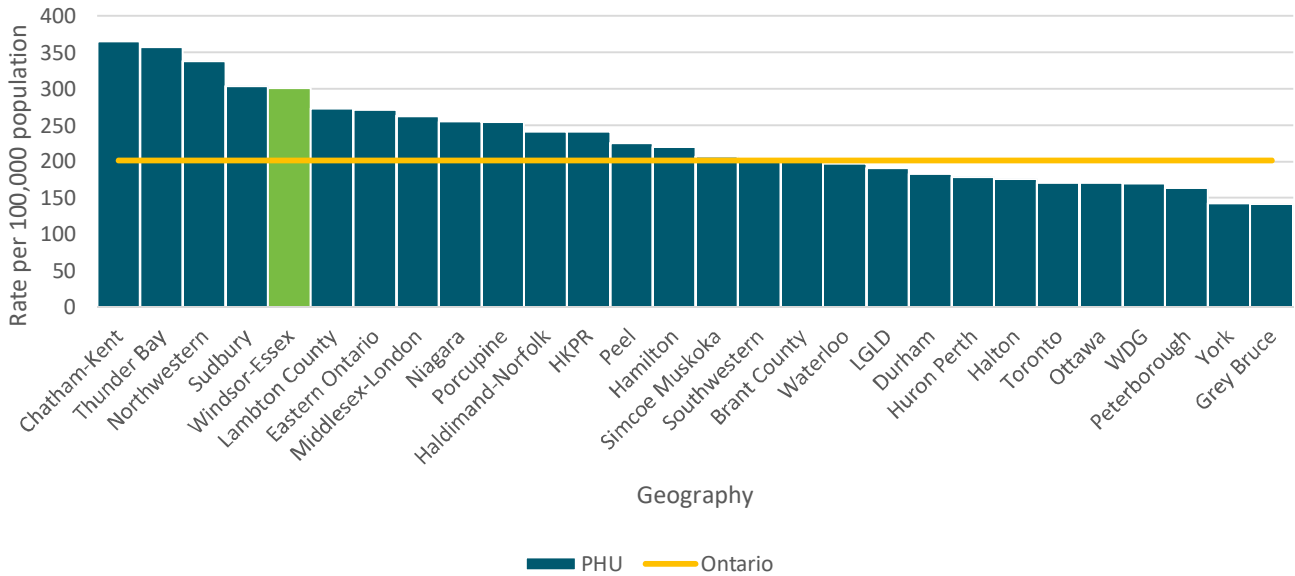
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 3, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [31/Jan/2021] at 3:00 pm.

During the past week (January 24 - 30, 2022), the high-risk case rate for Windsor-Essex County has decreased and a similar trend can be observed across all other health units. 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: January 17 – January 30, 2022.

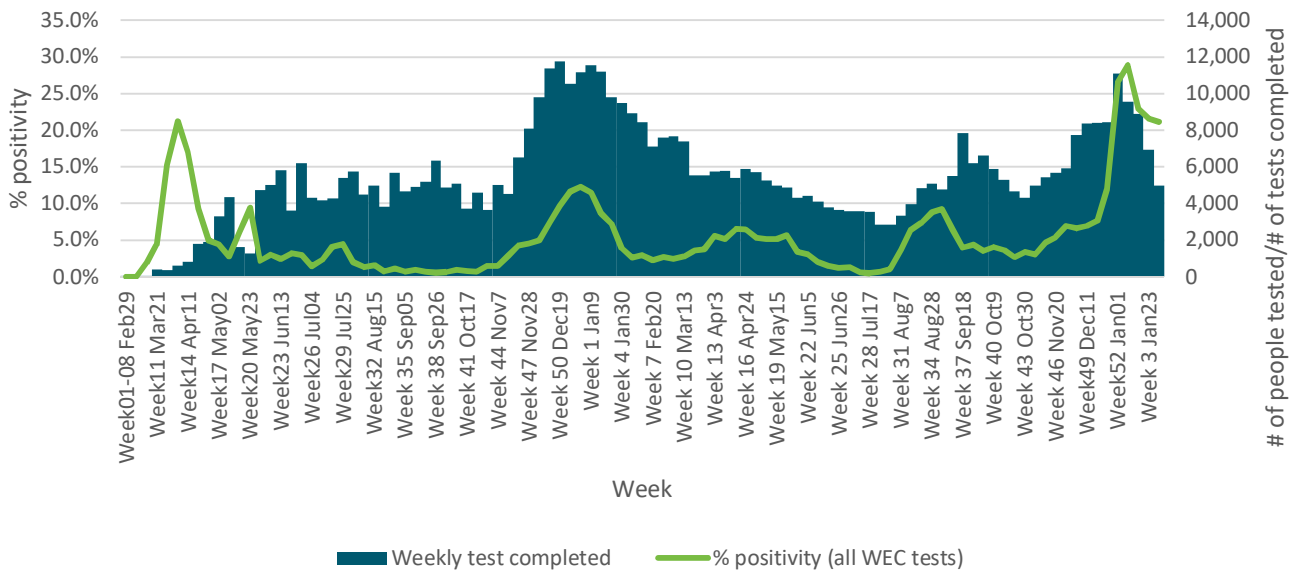


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 31, 2022

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (January 24 - 30, 2022) is 21.1%, a decrease of 0.5% compared to the previous week (21.6%; January 17 - 23, 2022). After the first week of January, 2022, a consistent decline in percent positivity can be observed after a sharp increase since mid December, 2021.

Figure 3: Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29 to January 30, 2022

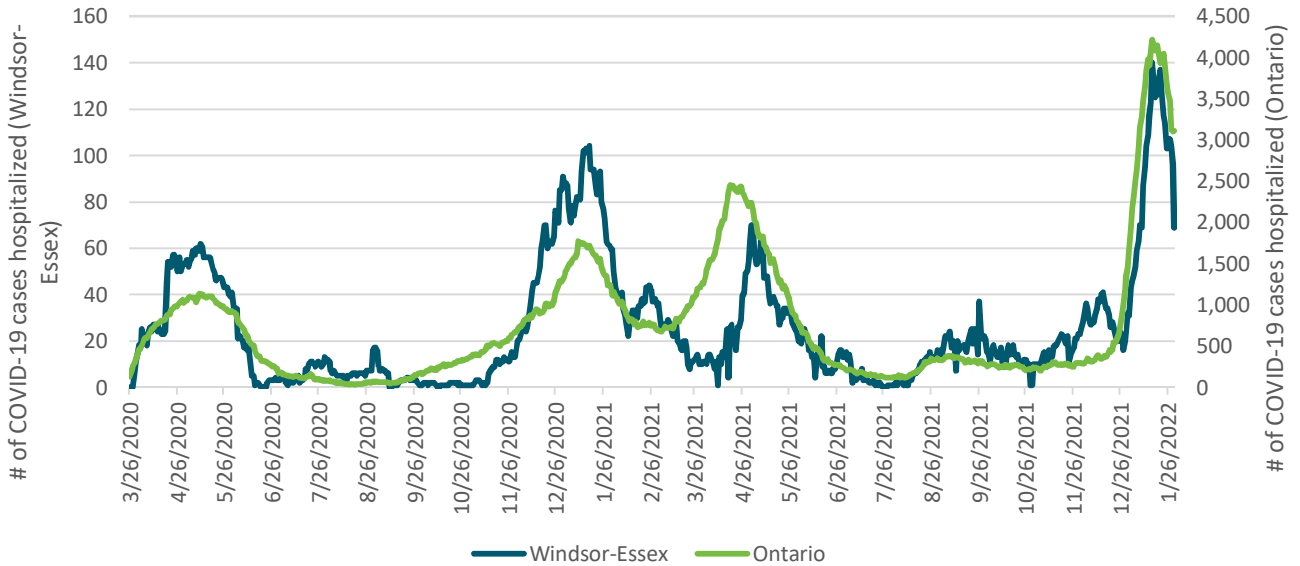


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 31, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

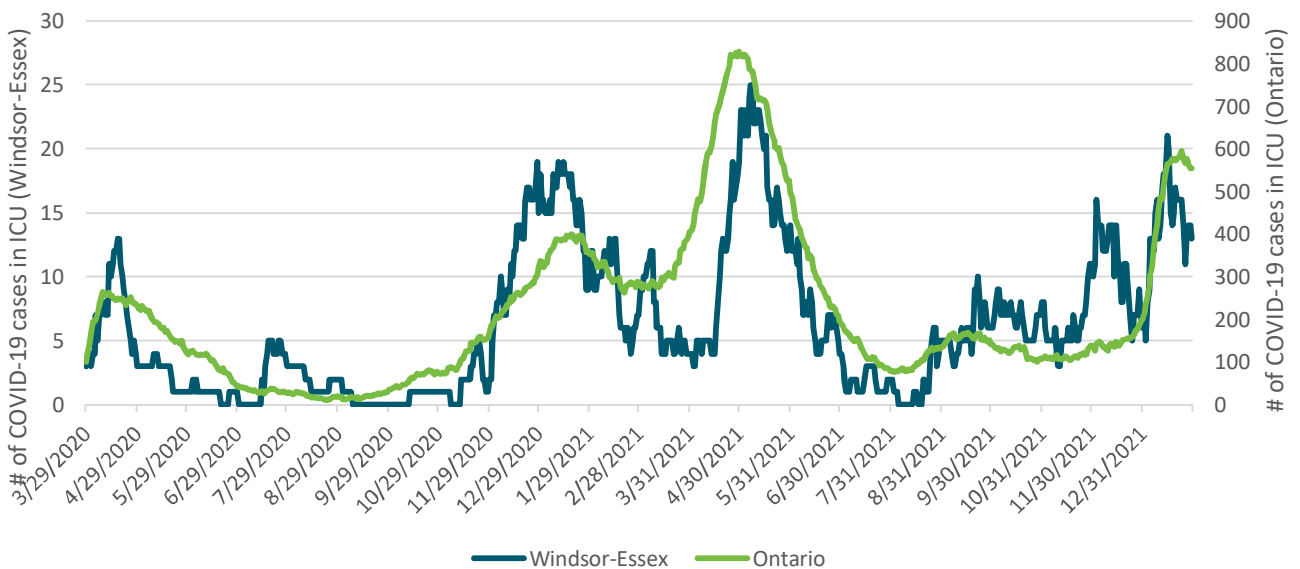
For the most recent week (January 24 - 30, 2022), there have been 86 new hospital admissions compared to 103 new admissions seen during the previous week (January 17 – 23, 2022; **Figure 4**). There were 4 new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU for this week (January 24 - 30, 2022), a decrease of 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. A slight decline in ICU admissions was also observed both locally and across Ontario.

Figure 4: Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – January 30, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 31, 2022.

Figure 5: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – January 30, 2022



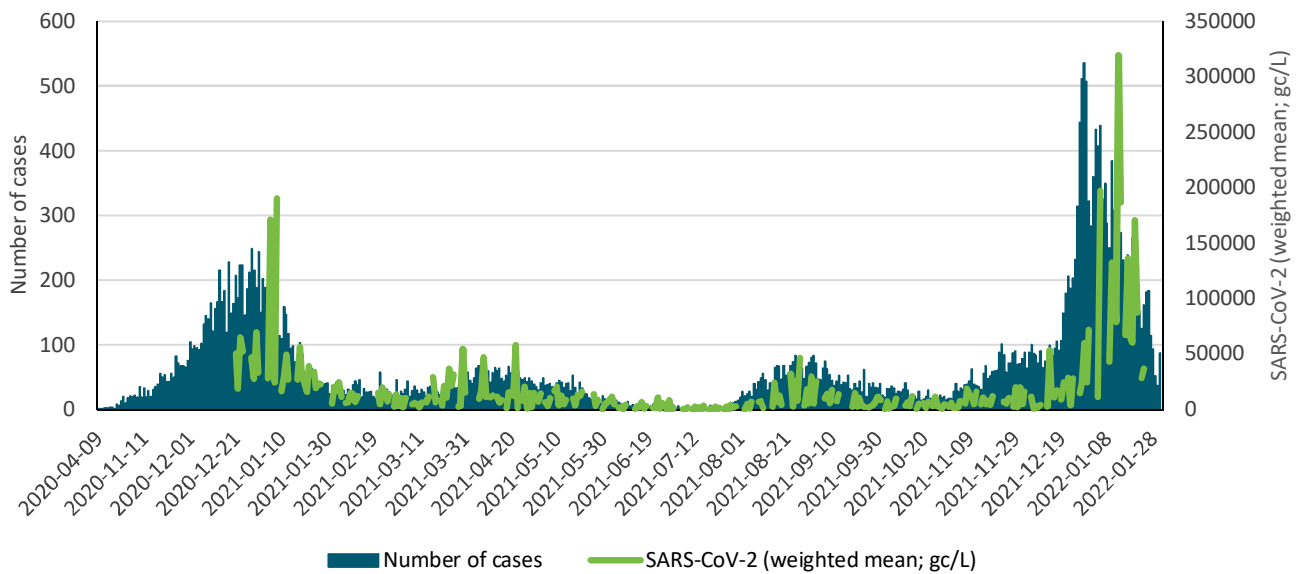
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 31, 2022.

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 previous week (January 17 - 23, 2022), a decrease in signal intensity was observed towards the end of the week (**Figure 6**). Wastewater data for the current week (January 24 – 30, 2022) is not yet available.

Figure 6: COVID-19 wastewater viral signal in Windsor-Essex County: August 1, 2021 – January 23, 2022

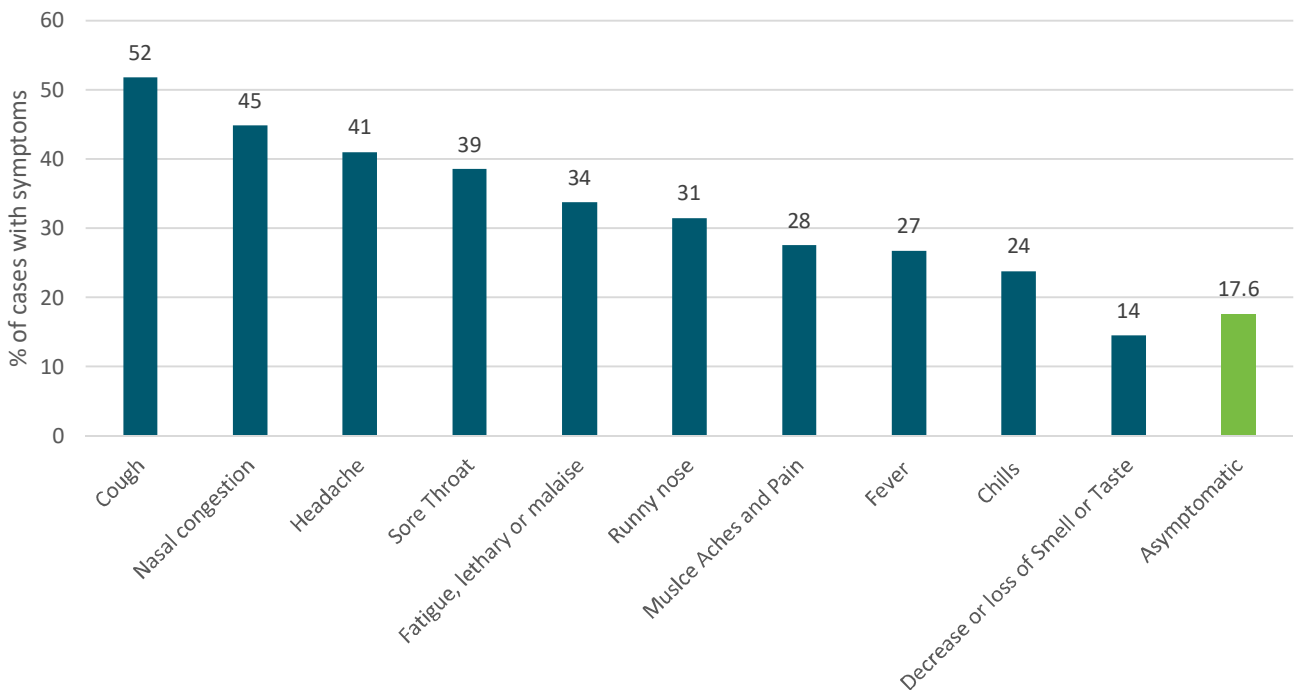


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on January 31, 2022.

Symptoms

Figure 7 illustrates the proportion of ten most common symptoms among confirmed COVID-19 cases from December 1, 2021 to January 30, 2022. During this period of time, a total of 10,003 confirmed cases were reported, of which 82.4% (n = 8,238) were symptomatic and 17.6% (n = 1,765) were asymptomatic. Among the symptomatic cases, cough, headache, nasal congestion, sore throat and fatigue/lethargy were the most commonly reported symptoms.

Figure 7: Prevalence of symptoms among confirmed COVID-19 cases, Windsor-Essex County: December 1, 2021 – January 30, 2022

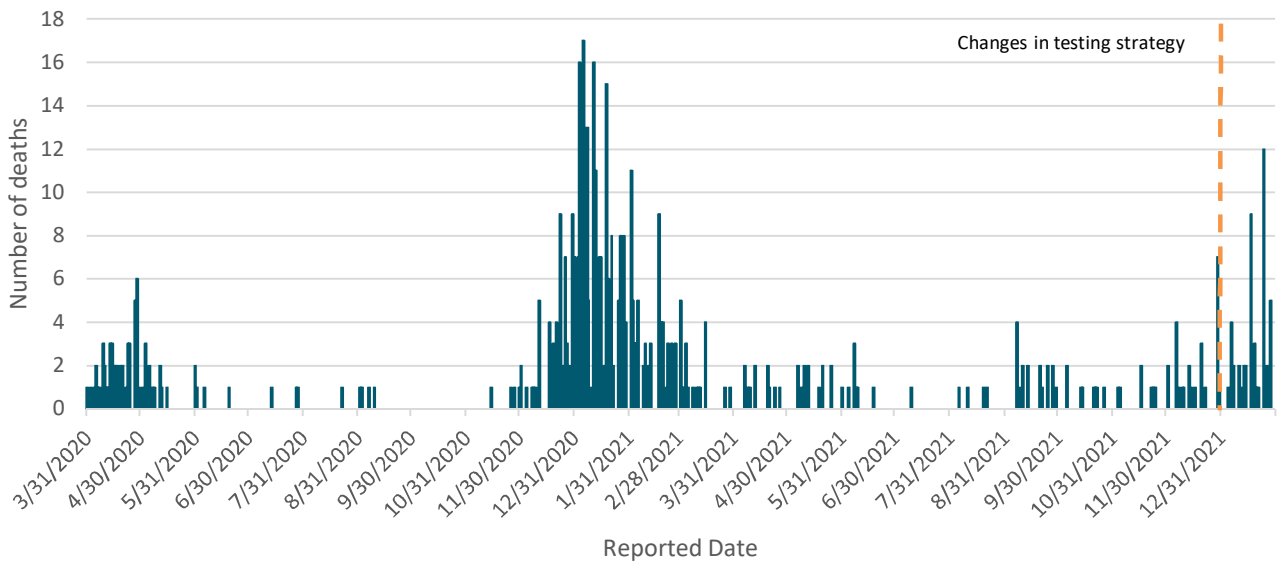


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [31/Jan/2022] at 3:00 pm.

Deaths

As of January 30, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 551 COVID-19 related deaths with 21 deaths reported during the current week (January 24 – 30, 2022; **Figure 8**) compared to 16 deaths reported during (January 17 – 23, 2022).

Figure 8: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – January 30, 2022

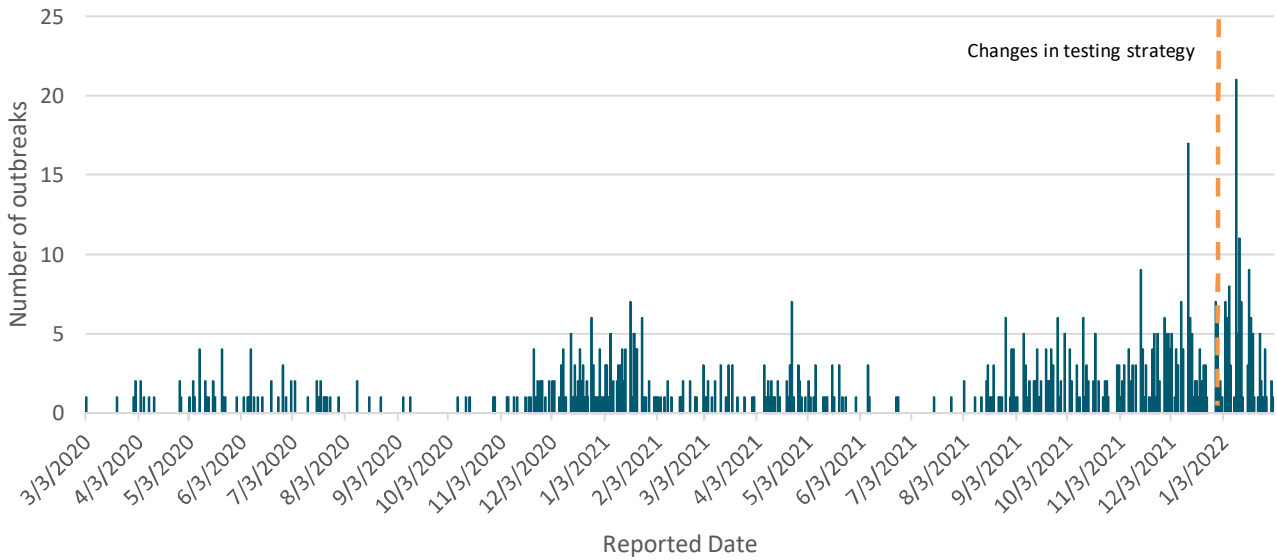


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [31/Jan/2022] at 3:00 pm.

Outbreaks

As of February 1, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 74 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Twelve outbreaks were declared during the current week (January 24 – 30, 2022; **Figure 9**) compared to the 18 outbreaks declared during the previous week (January 17 – 23, 2022). Due to the changes in testing strategy since January focussing on high risk settings, most of our current outbreaks are in long-term care homes, retirement homes, agricultural settings and in other congregate settings.

Figure 9: Number of confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks declared by Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – January 30, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [31/Jan/2022] at 3:00 pm.

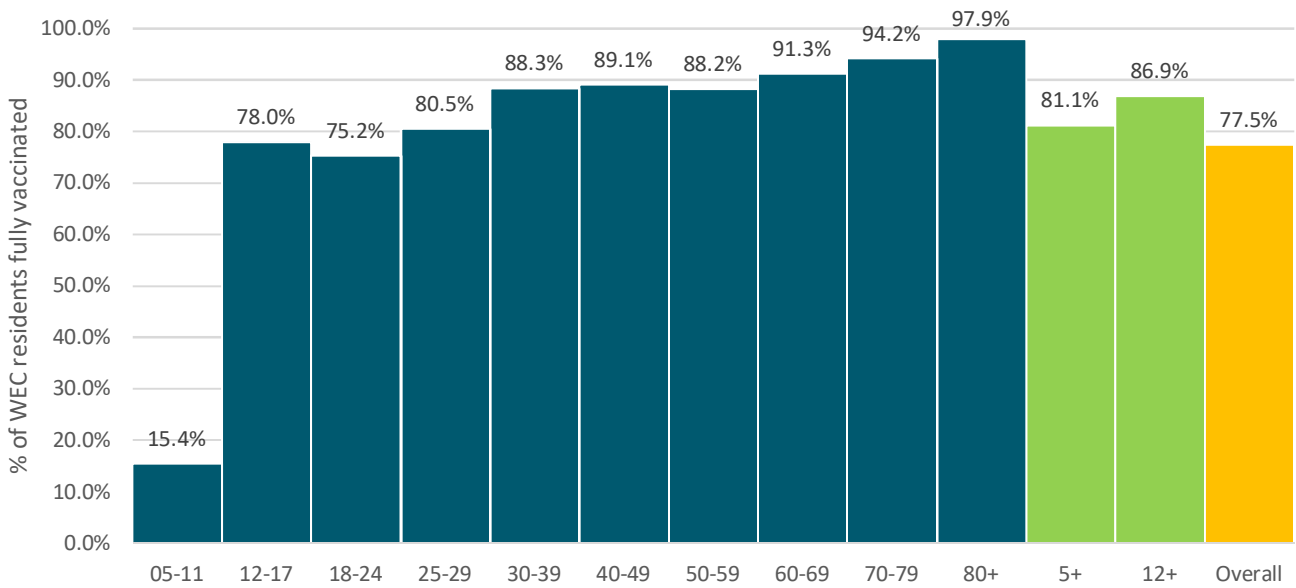
For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>

COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rates by Age Group

Over 7,131 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 4 (January 24 to January 30) compared to 10,369 doses in week 3 (January 17 to January 23). This represents a 31.2% decrease between the two weeks. Overall, the 5-11 age group has the lowest coverage rate for two vaccines (15.4%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (75.2%) and 12-17 age group (78.0%) (**Figure 10**).

Figure 10: COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by age group in Windsor-Essex County: February 1, 2022

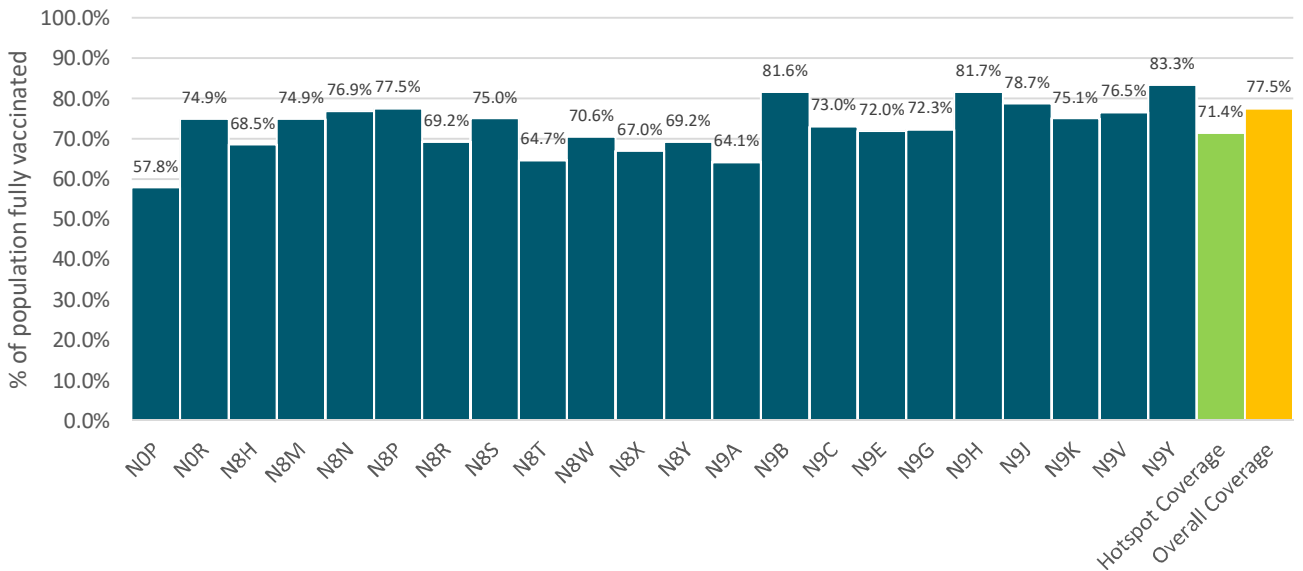


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: February 1, 2022

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall fully vaccinated coverage rate is 77.5% and the coverage rate for those fully vaccinated is 71.4% among the hotspot FSAs. Eight FSAs have a coverage rate that is lower than the overall coverage among hotspot FSAs. Among these, FSA NOP (57.8%), N9A (64.1%) and N8T (64.7%) have the lowest coverage rates in WEC. (Figure 11).

Figure 11: COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor-Essex County: February 1, 2022



Note: Coverage rates by FSA include all Windsor-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 1, 2022

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

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