

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiologic Update

January 12th, 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 dashboard are an underestimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 in Windsor-Essex and may impact data completeness. Please interpret these data accordingly.”

Data Highlights (week of January 3 - 9, 2022)

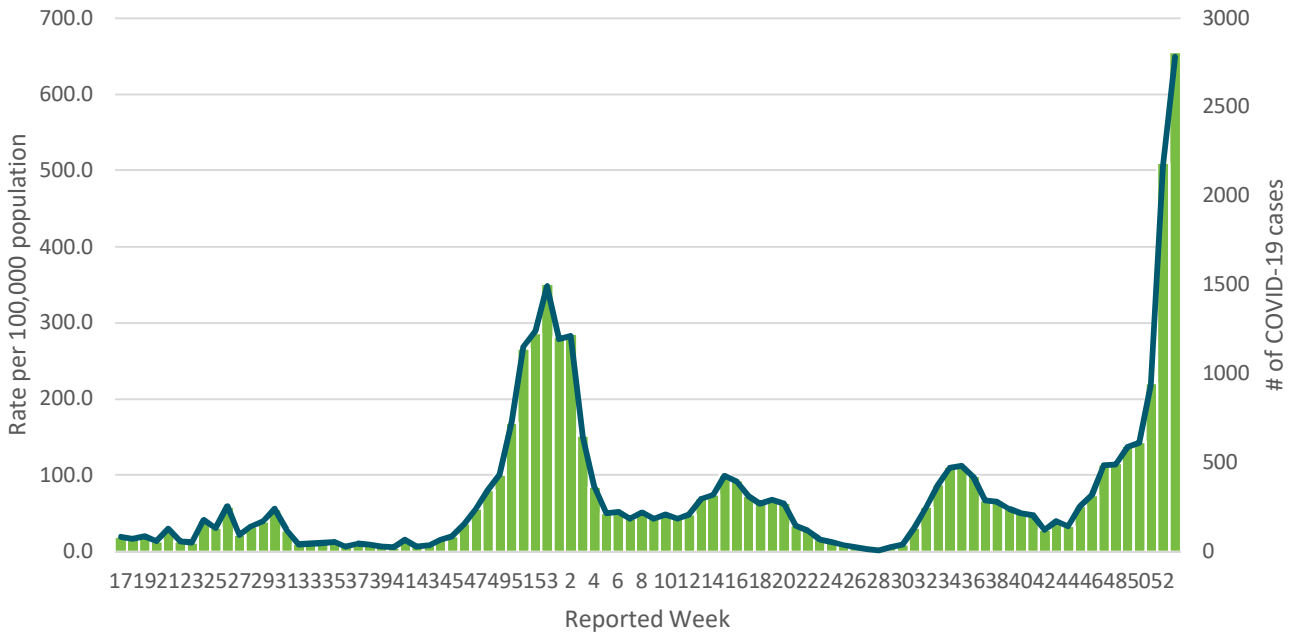
- 29,417 cases were reported between January 3 – 9, 2022, with the current 7-day moving average of 437.7 per day (an increase of 56% compared with the previous week’s 7-day moving average)
- For the week of January 3 - 9, 2022, the case rate is 649.2 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 28.4% compared to the previous week.
- WEC case rate is 1.25 higher than the Southwest region (519.5 cases per 100,000), and 1.15 times higher than Ontario (564.2 cases per 100,000).
- Percent positivity increased by 14.4% percentage points from 11.9% (December 19 – 25, 2021) to 26.3% (December 26, 2021 – January 1, 2022).
- Highest number of cases were seen among 20-29 year olds (26%) in the past two weeks.
- Kingsville had the highest weekly case rate of 165 cases per 100,000 population, followed by Amherstburg (150.6 cases per 100,000) and Windsor (121.3 cases per 100,000 population).
- Hospitalizations, including the ICU admissions, have increased locally and across Ontario.
- Wastewater surveillance continues to show an increase in viral signal of COVID-19 within Windsor-Essex County in the early weeks of January 2022.

COVID-19 Cases in Windsor-Essex County

Trends

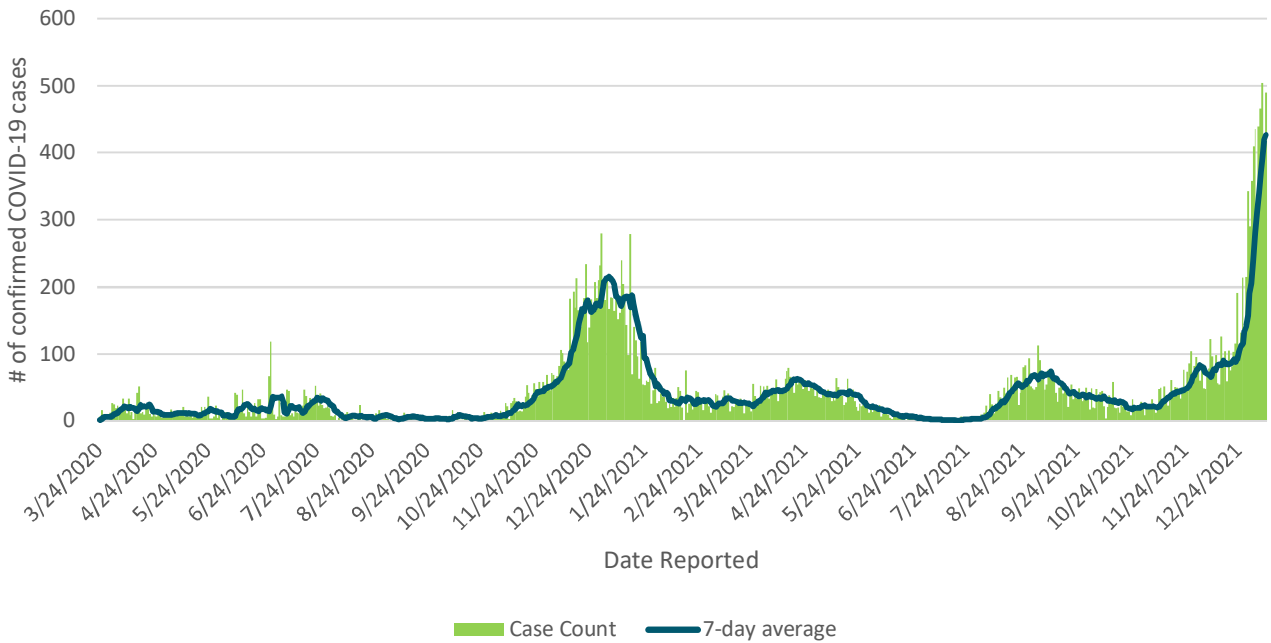
As of January 9th, 2022, the health unit has reported 29,417 confirmed cases of COVID-19. For the most completed week January 3 - 9, 2022, the case rate was 649.2 cases per 100,000 population, which is higher than the previous week’s rate (December 27– January 2, 2022; 505.8 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 1**). The current 7-day moving average of cases in WEC is 437.7 (**Figure 2**).

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



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [12/Jan/2021] at 9:00 am.

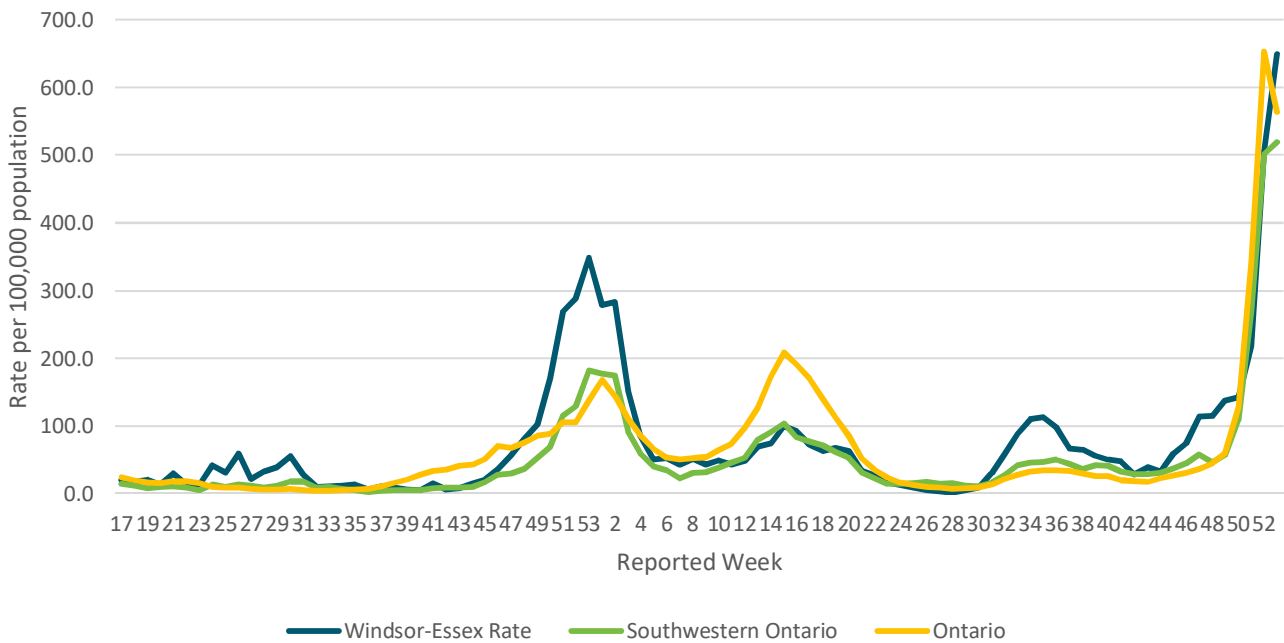
Figure 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Windsor-Essex County by date: March 1, 2020 to January 9, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [12/Jan/2021] at 9:00 am.

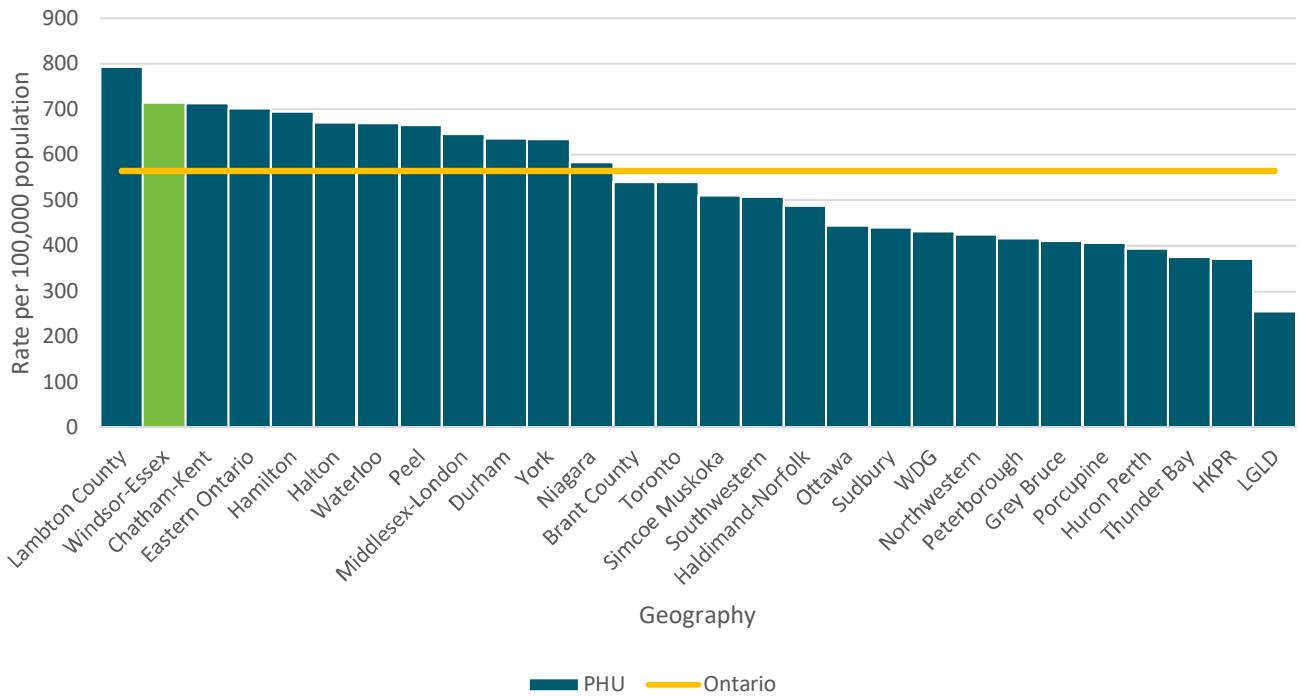
During the past week (January 3 - 9, 2022), Windsor-Essex County had a case rate of 649.2 cases per 100,000, which was 1.25 times higher than the Southwest regions (519.5 cases per 100,000) and 1.15 times higher than Ontario (564.2 cases per 100,000). As shown in **Figure 3a**, the case rate has been consistently increasing since November 8 (Week 44), and has increased by 1.3 times compared to the past week. In comparison to other public health units in the past week, Windsor-Essex County has the second highest rate after Lambton County (**Figure 3b**).

Figure 3a: Weekly COVID-19 case rates in Ontario: March 1, 2020 to January 9, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [12/Jan/2021] at 9:00 am.

Figure 3b: Weekly COVID-19 case rates across health units in Ontario: January 3 – January 9, 2022.

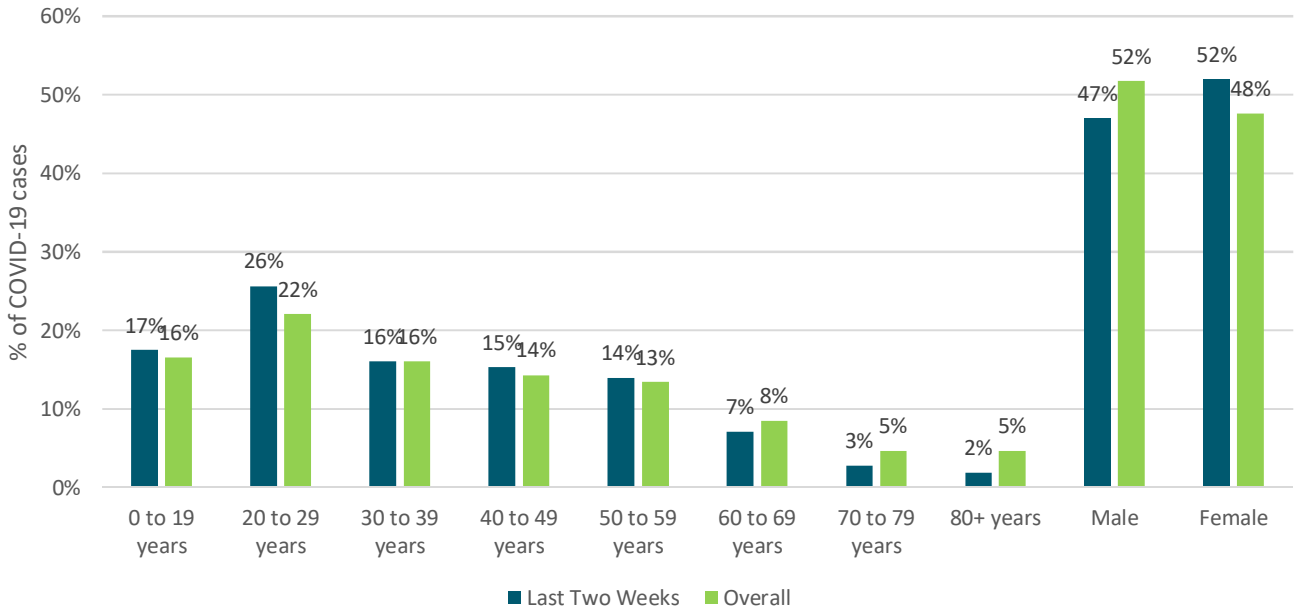


Source: COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 12, 2022.

Age and Sex

Overall, approximately 48% of the cases have been among females and 52% among males. In the past two weeks, a relatively higher number of cases were reported among 20 – 29 year olds. From the onset of the pandemic locally (March 1, 2020 to January 9, 2022), only 22% of our cases have been in the 20-29 age group (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4: Distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age and sex by reported date: March 1, 2020 to January 9, 2022

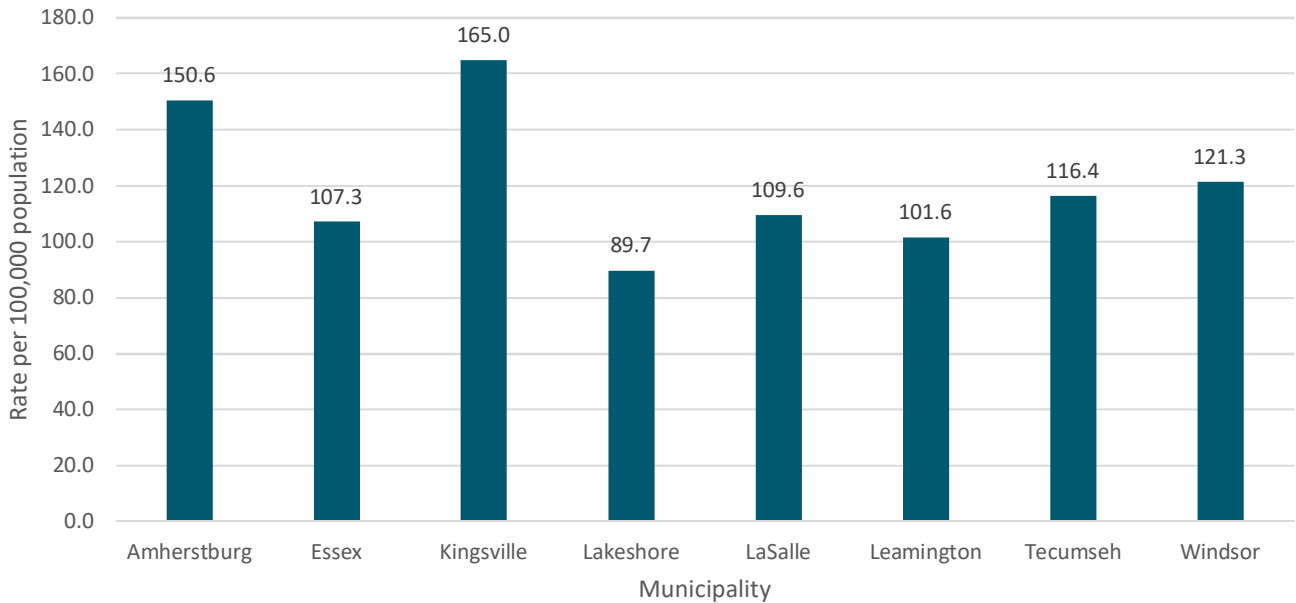


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [12/Jan/2021] at 9:00 am.

Municipal Distribution

In the most recent completed week (January 2 - 9, 2022), Kingsville had the highest case rate (165.0 cases per 100,000 population), followed by Amherstburg (150.6 cases per 100,000 population) and Windsor (121.3 cases per 100,000 population; **Figure 5**).

Figure 5: Distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases by municipality: January 3 – January 9, 2022

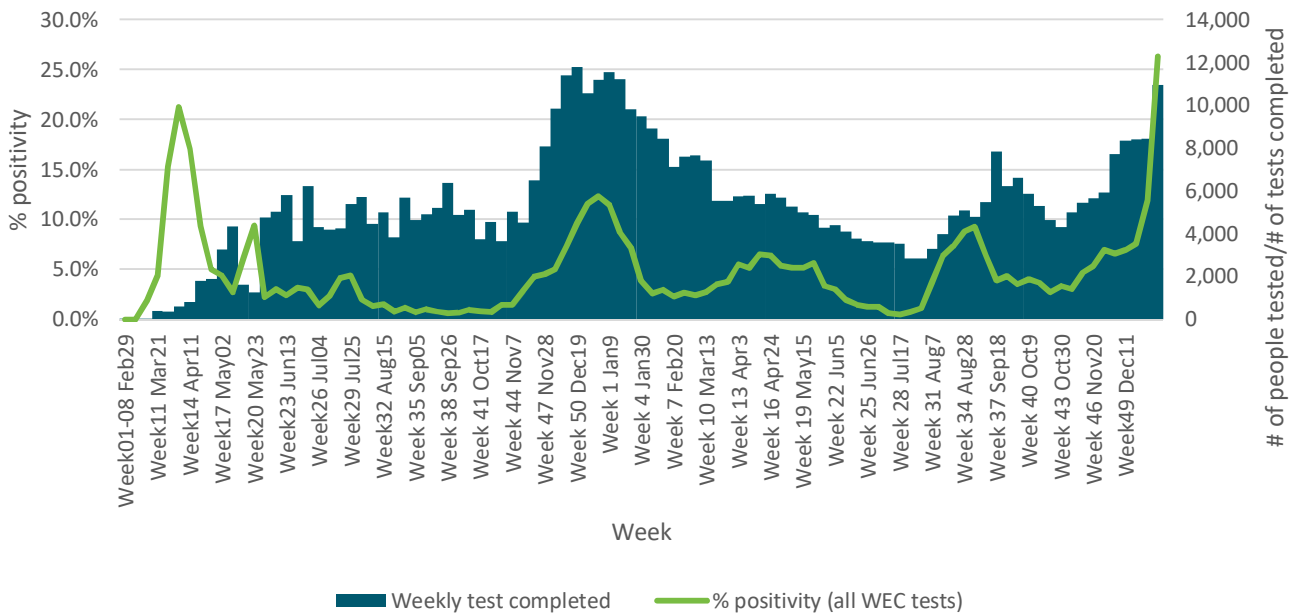


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [12/Jan/2021] at 9:00 am.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 6**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (December 26 – January 1, 2021) is 26.3%, an increase of 14.4% percentage points compared to the previous week (11.9%; December 19 – 25, 2021).

Figure 6: Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29 to January 1, 2022

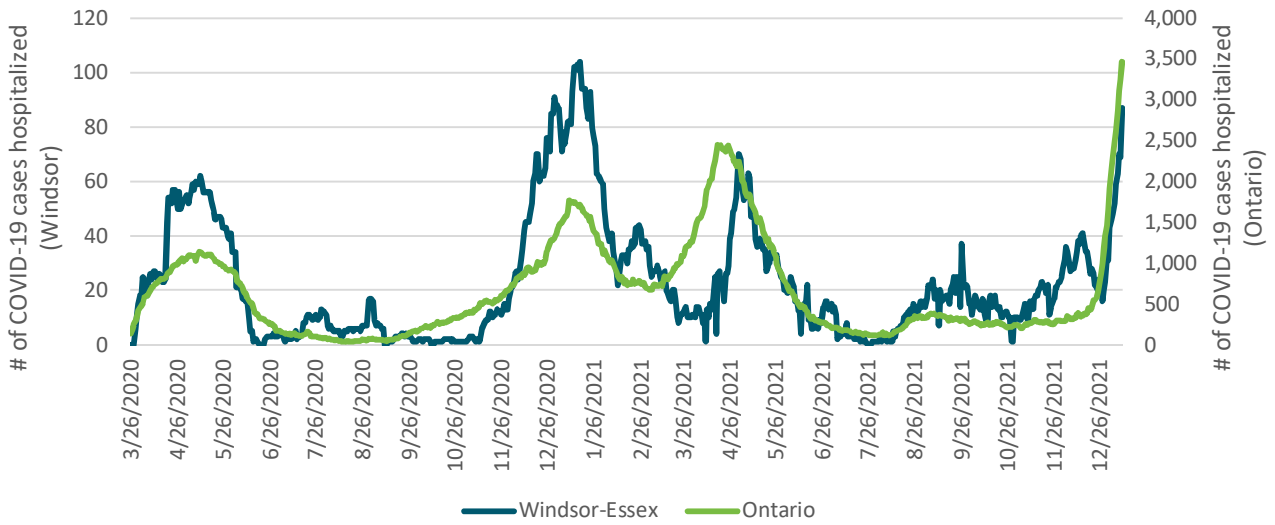


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 12, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

For the most recent week (January 3- 9, 2022), there have been 86 new hospital admissions compared to 39 new admissions seen three weeks ago (December 27, 2021 – January 2, 2022; **Figure 7**). There were 15 new COVID-19 patients were admitted to ICU for this week (January 3 - 9, 2022), which is 12 more than the number of ICU admissions reported last week (**Figure 8**).

Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – January 9, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 12, 2022.

Figure 8: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – January 9, 2022

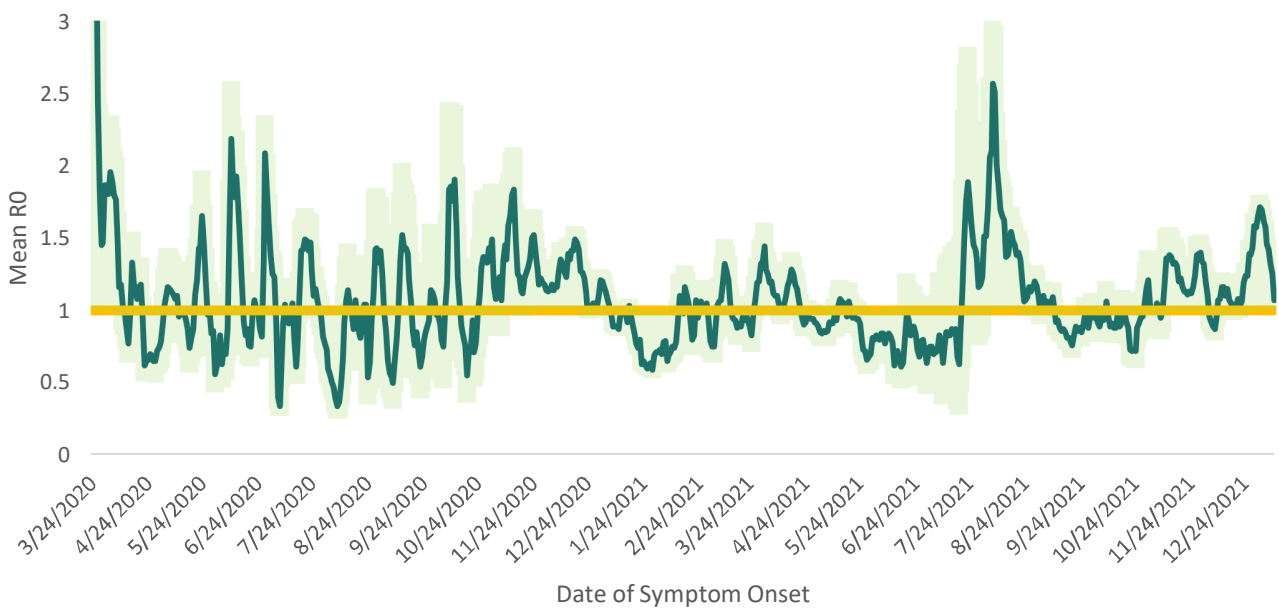


Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on January 12, 2022.

Effective Reproductive Number (Rt) for COVID-19

Compared to the increase observed the previous week, the reproductive number for this week (January 3 – January 2, 2022) has shown a steady decline from 1.63 to 1.07. During the current week, the highest reproductive number of 1.63 was observed on January 3, 2022. Given the limiting testing capacity and recent shift to focus on high risk settings, the reproductive number is likely an underestimate (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9: Median effective reproductive number for COVID-19 in Windsor-Essex County: March 25, 2020 – January 9, 2022



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [12/Jan/2021] at 9:00 am.

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

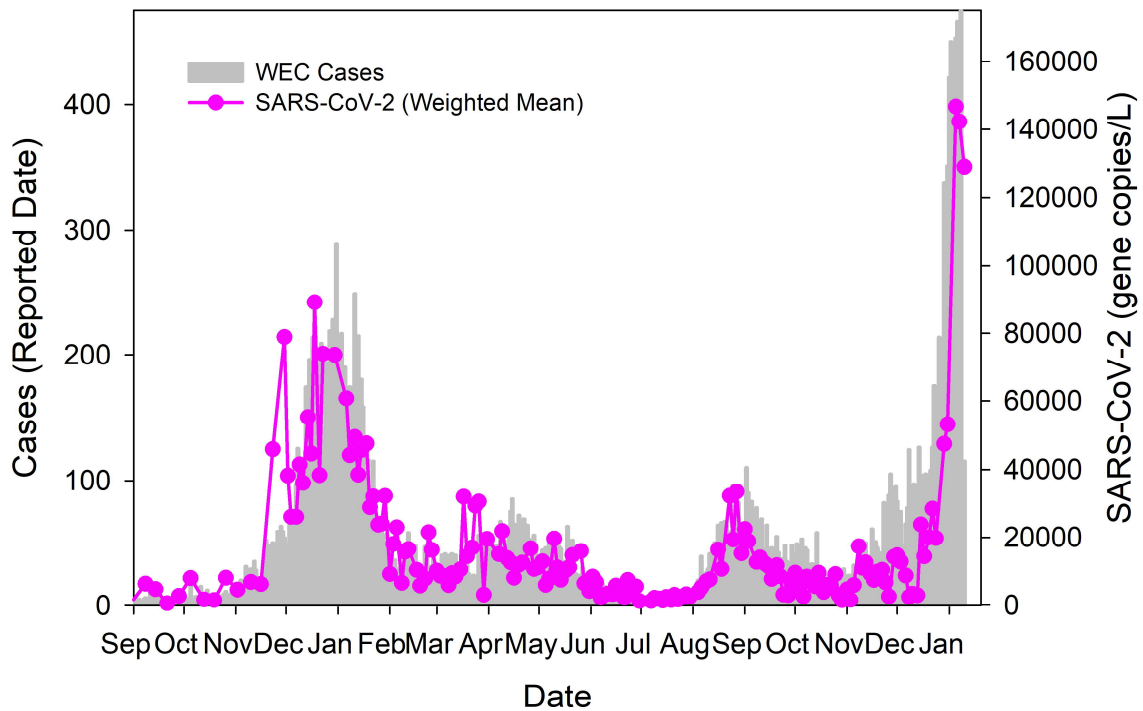
Local Wastewater Surveillance

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.

Figure 10 depicts case counts in WEC by reported date alongside the weighted mean viral signal (gene copies/L) across the sampling plants in the region. We have seen a sharp increase in the viral signal in Windsor-Essex continue into January 10th, 2022.

Figure 10: COVID-19 wastewater viral signal in Windsor-Essex County: September 1, 2020 – January 10, 2022

Windsor-Essex Wastewater Surveillance



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

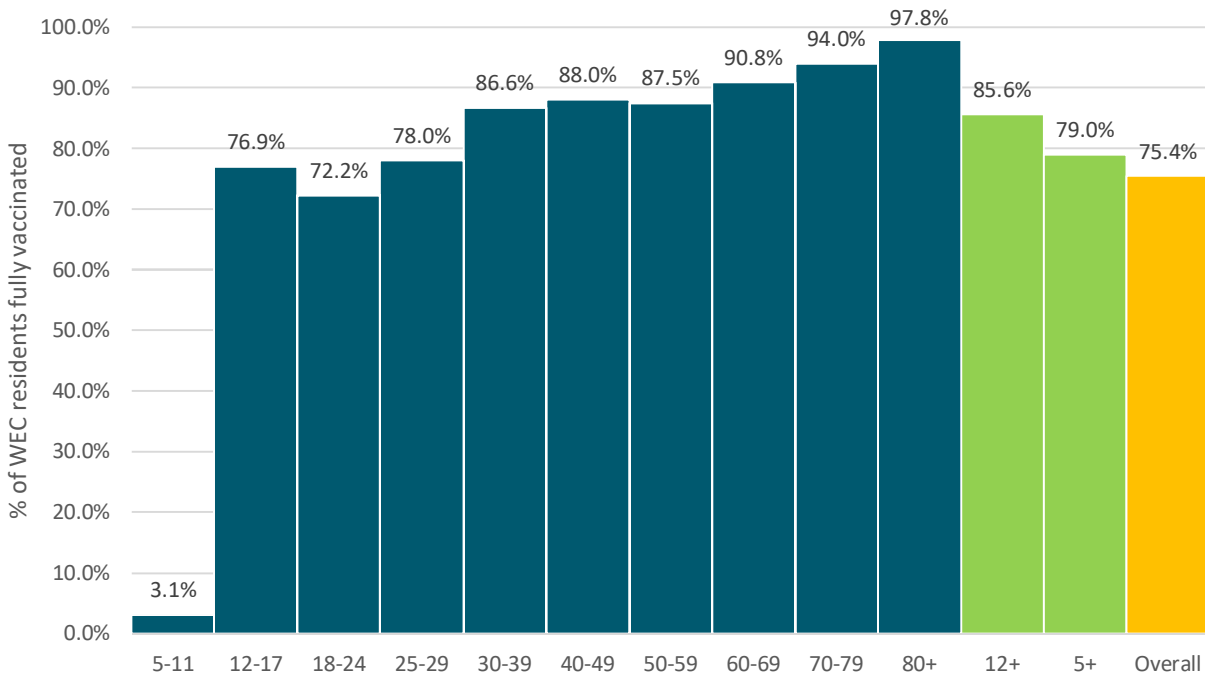
For more information on local COVID-19 statistics, please visit: <https://www.wechu.org/cv/local-updates>

COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rates by Age Group

As depicted in **Figure 11**, the overall coverage rate, including those ineligible to receive the vaccine, in WEC is 75.4%. The 18-24 year age group has the lowest coverage rate in fully vaccinated individuals at 72.2%, followed by those in the 12-17 age group (76.9%) and adults 25-29 years of age (78.0%).

Figure 11: COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rates by age group in Windsor-Essex County: January 12, 2022

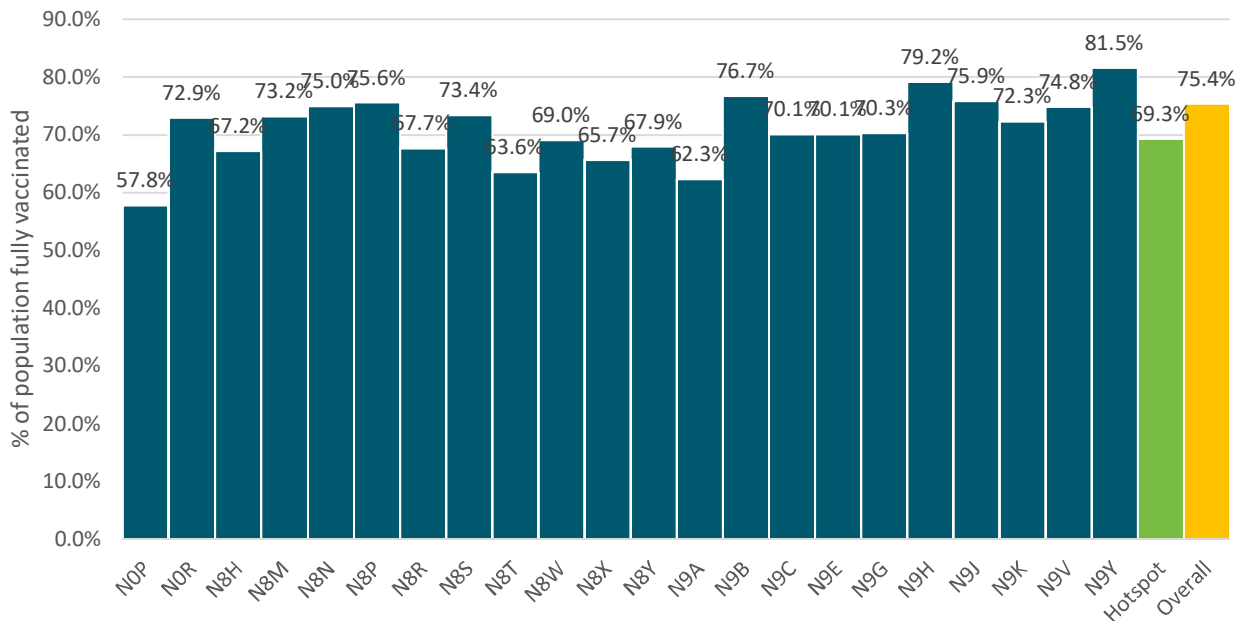


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHEALTH COVaxON. Data extracted on: January 12, 2022

Fully Vaccinated Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

Coverage by geography is depicted below in **Figure 12**. There are several FSAs that lower fully vaccinated coverage rates than the overall rate such as the NOP (57.8%), N9A (62.9%), N8T (63.6%), and N8X (65.7%) postal codes.

Figure 12: COVID-19 fully vaccinated coverage rate by Forward Sortation Area in Windsor-Essex County: January 12, 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, IntelliHEALTH COVaxON. Data extracted on January 12, 2022

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

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