

Windsor-Essex County COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Update

April 26th, 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 April 18 - 24, 2022)

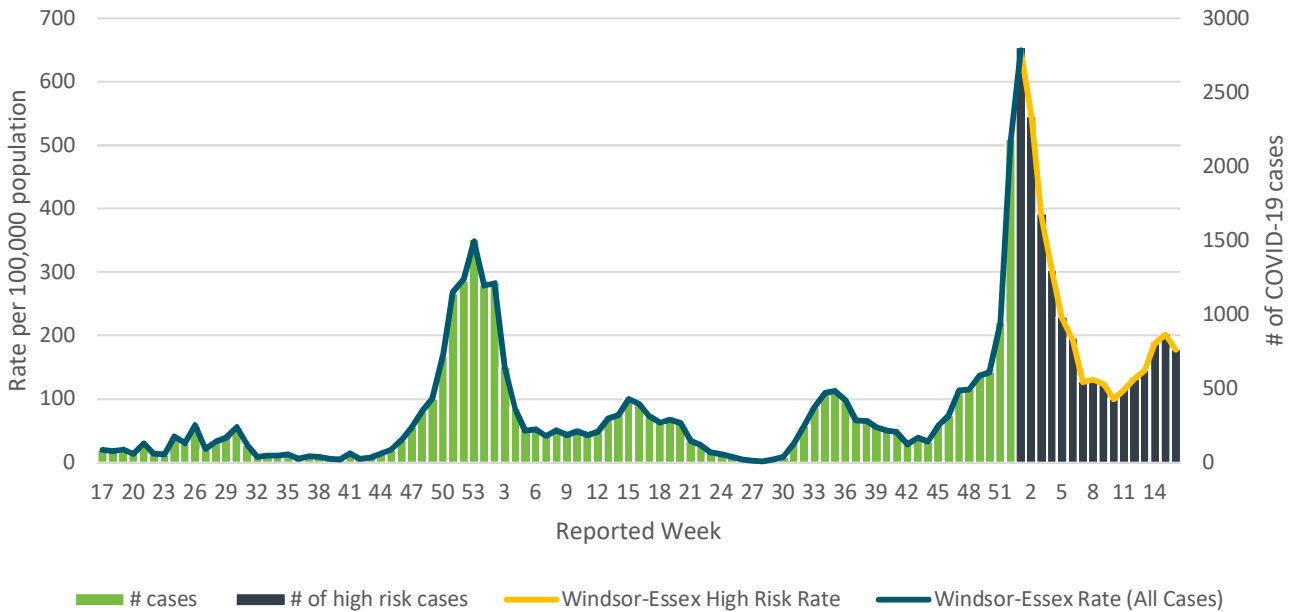
- The weekly high-risk case rate is 177.2 cases per 100,000 population, a decrease of 11.9% compared to the previous week.
- Percent positivity remained relatively unchanged from last week.
- Number of in-patient hospitalizations remained unchanged for Windsor-Essex County but increased in Ontario.
 - ICU remains low in Windsor-Essex County but continues to increase across Ontario.
- Wastewater viral signals for April 18 - 24, 2022 showed a decline compared to the last week.
- Nine deaths were reported this week (April 18 - 24, 2022), compared to only one death reported during the previous week (April 11 - 17, 2022).
- Nine outbreaks were declared during the current week (April 18 - 24, 2022) compared to eight outbreaks declared during the previous week (April 11 - 17, 2022).
 - From year to date, most outbreaks were declared in retirement homes, communal living facilities and hospitals.
- Windsor-Essex County has an overall third dose coverage rate of 51.5% for residents 12 years and older.
 - Local residents 12 to 17 year olds have the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.6%), whereas the 80+ age group has the highest coverage rate (87.4%).

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

Trends

For the most recent completed week of April 18 - 24, 2022, the high-risk case rate was 177.2 cases per 100,000 population, which is lower than the previous week's rate (April 11 - 17, 2022; 201.1 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 slight decline was observed for the most recent week. Estimates of the case rate are likely an underestimate due to limited testing capacity.

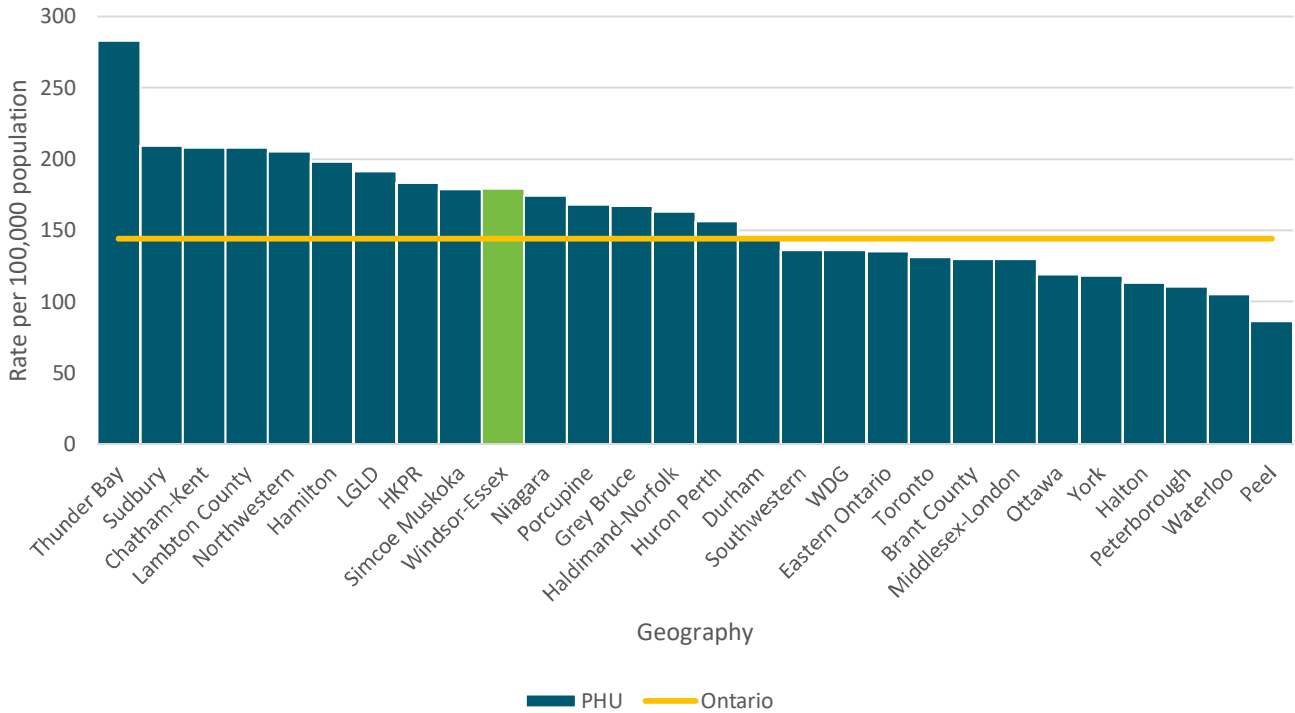
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 case rates in Windsor-Essex County by reported week: Week 17, 2020 to Week 16, 2022.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [25/Apr/2022] at 3:30 pm.

During the past week (April 18 - 24, 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, Porcupine, Peel and Thunder Bay, which reported a slight increase in their case rates. Windsor-Essex County has the tenth highest weekly high risk 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: April 18 - 24, 2022.

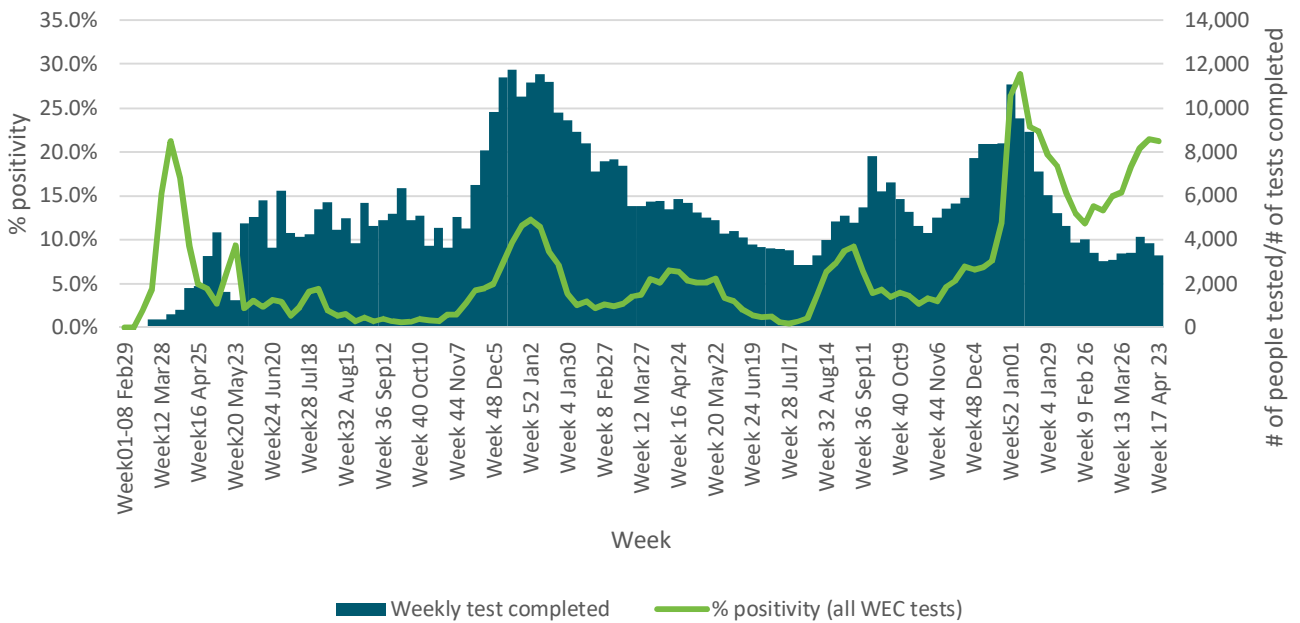


Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 25, 2022.

Percent Positivity

As seen in **Figure 3**, the percent positivity for the most recent completed week (April 17 - 23, 2022) is 21.3%, which is relatively similar to the previous week (21.5%; April 10 - 16, 2022). After peaking in mid-January, there was a decline in percent positivity until March, after which a consistent increase has been observed.

Figure 3: Percent positivity of tests conducted in Windsor-Essex County for COVID-19: February 29, 2020 to April 23, 2022

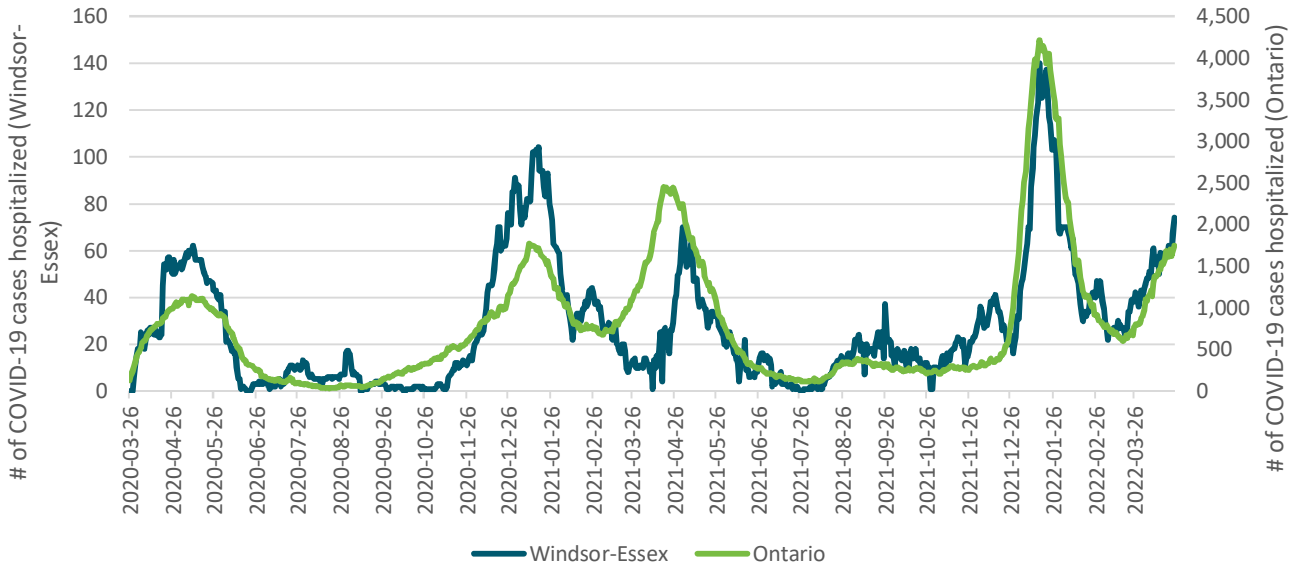


Note: Due to the minor daily fluctuations in the number of tests, the percent positivity rates should be interpreted with caution.
Source: COVID-19 Testing Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 26, 2022.

Hospitalization and ICU Admissions

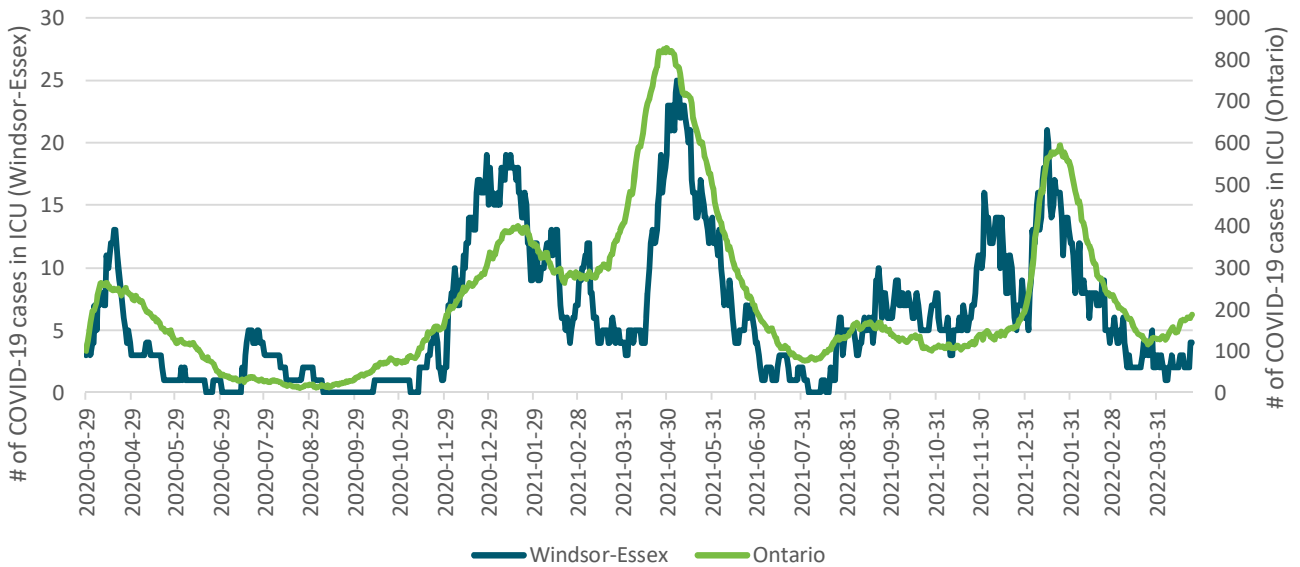
For the most recent week (April 18 - 24, 2022), there have been 68 new hospital admissions which is similar to the number of admissions seen during the previous week (April 11 - 17, 2022; **Figure 4**). Three new COVID-19 patient were admitted to ICU this week (April 18 - 24, 2022), compared to one admission reported during the previous week (**Figure 5**). ICU admissions though continue to incrementally increase in Ontario.

Figure 4: Confirmed COVID-19 case in-patient hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 29, 2020 – April 24, 2022



Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 26, 2022.

Figure 5: Confirmed COVID-19 case ICU hospitalizations in Ontario and Windsor-Essex County: March 26, 2020 – April 24, 2022



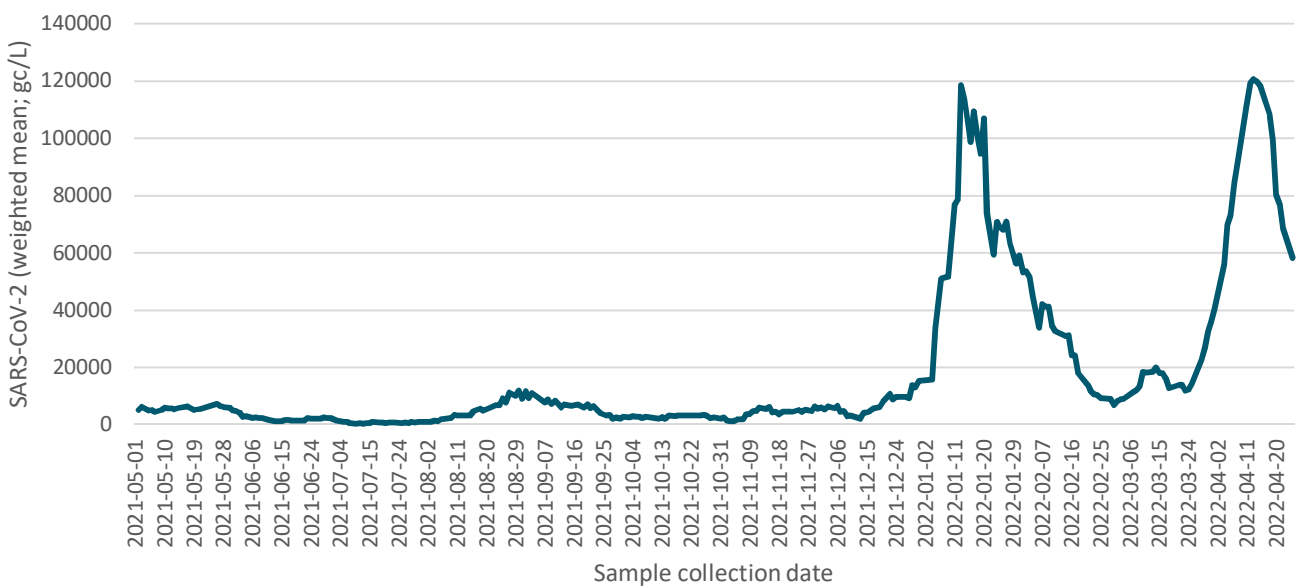
Source: COVID-19 Regional Hospitals Report, SAS Visual Analytics Hub. Data extracted on April 26, 2022.

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.

For the current week (April 11 - 17, 2022), the signal intensity showed a decline throughout the week using a 7-day rolling average (**Figure 6**). Despite the recent decline, 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 – April 24, 2022

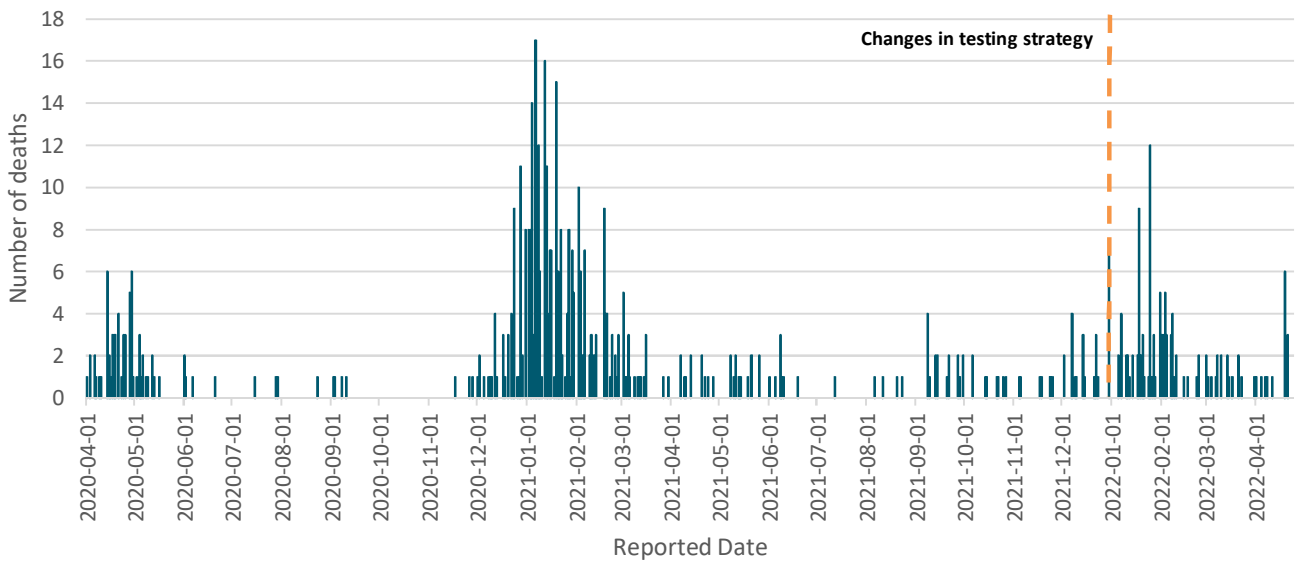


Source: Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor. Data extracted on April 26, 2022.

Deaths

As of April 17, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has reported a total of 607 COVID-19 related deaths. Nine deaths were reported during the current week (April 18 - 24, 2022; **Figure 7**), compared to only one death reported during the previous week (April 11 - 17, 2022).

Figure 7: Confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Windsor-Essex County: March 31, 2020 – April 24, 2022.

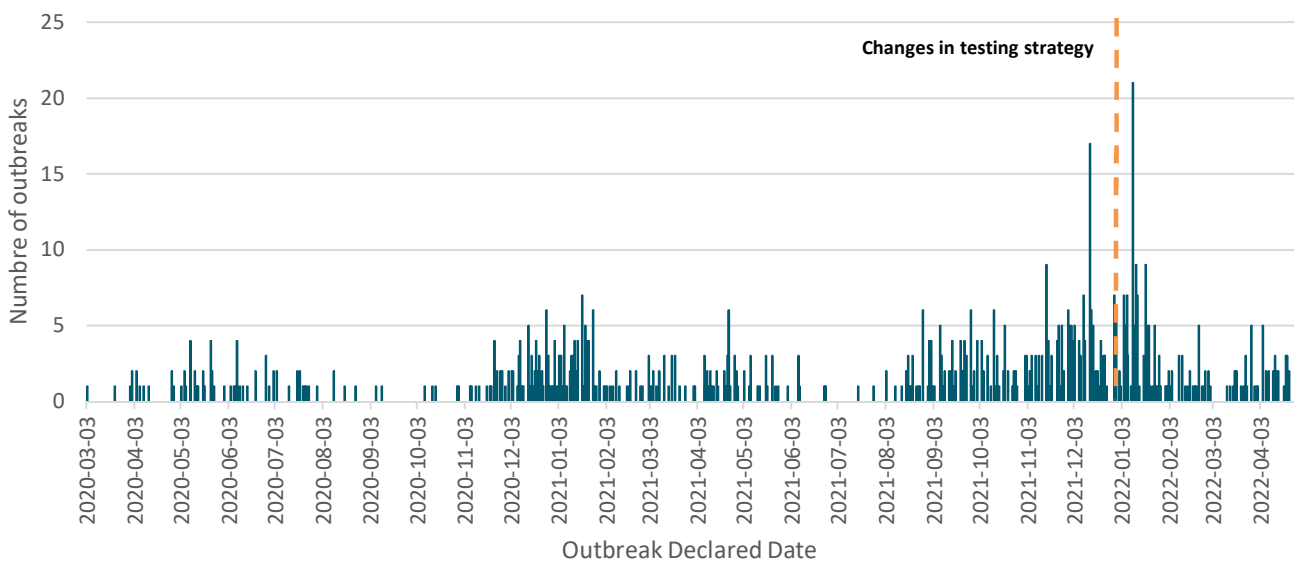


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [25/Apr/2022] at 3:30 pm.

Outbreaks

As of April 24, 2022, Windsor-Essex County has 25 active COVID-19 outbreaks (**Figure 8**). Nine outbreaks were declared during this week (April 18 - 24, 2022) compared to eight outbreaks declared during the previous week (April 11 - 17, 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 – April 24, 2022.

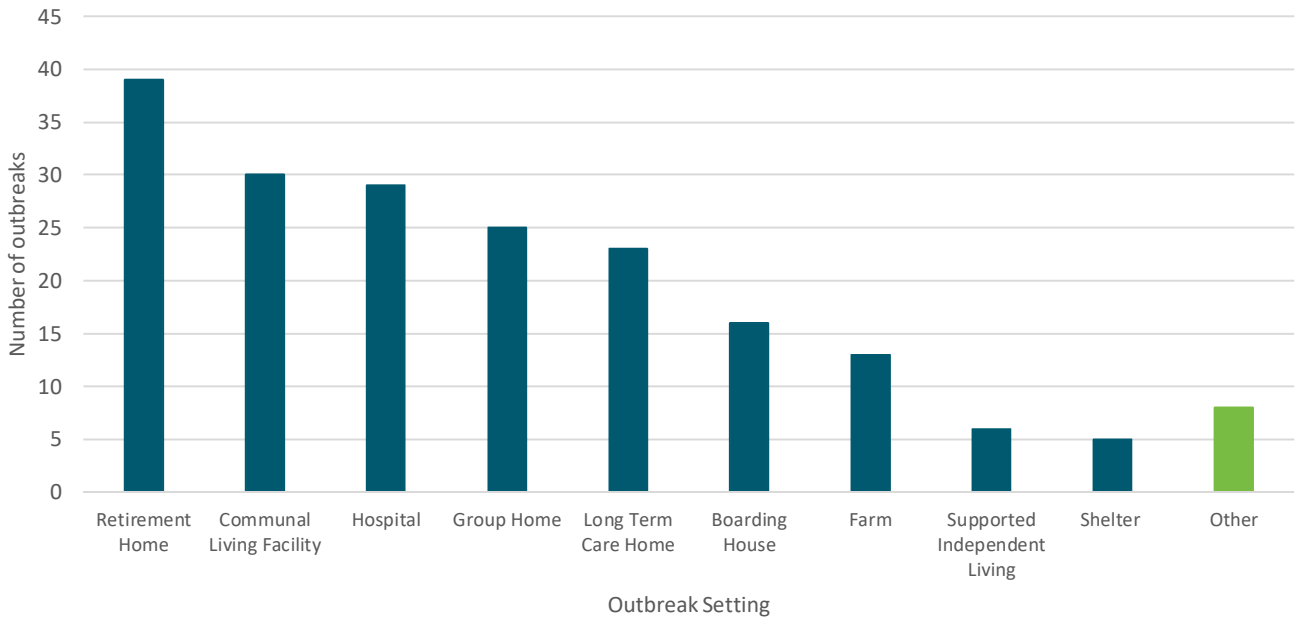


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [25/Apr/2022] at 3:30 pm.

Outbreaks by setting type

Figure 9 reports the number of COVID-19 outbreaks declared by setting type from January 1, 2022 to April 24, 2022. Only setting types with five or more outbreaks were included. A total of 194 outbreaks were declared during this time. More than half of these outbreaks were declared in retirement homes ($n = 39$), communal living facilities ($n = 30$), and hospitals ($n = 29$). Other settings include four hospices, three rooming houses, and one correctional facility. It is important to note that only certain settings are included as molecular testing is prioritized for those living and working at high-risk settings. These settings include hospitals, complex continuing care facilities or acute care facilities, congregate settings (long-term care homes, retirement homes, shelters, supportive housing, correctional institution), childcare centres and schools.

Figure 9: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks declared by setting in Windsor-Essex County, January 1, 2022 to April 24, 2022.



Note: Only high risk location types with 5 or more outbreaks are included.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM), extracted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit [26/Apr/2022] at 11:30 am.

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

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

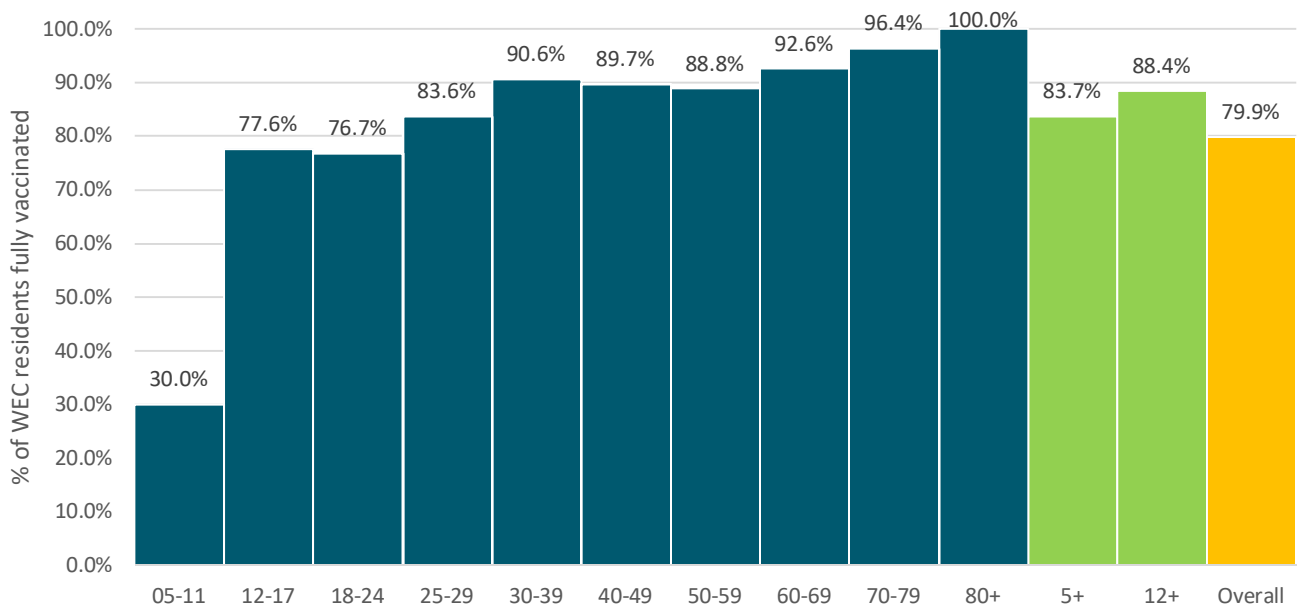
COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Windsor-Essex County

Over 4,886 doses were administered to Windsor-Essex County residents in week 16 (April 18 to April 24) compared to 3,571 doses in week 15 (April 11 to April 17). This represents a 36.8% increase between the two weeks.

Second Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group

Overall, the 5-11 age group has the lowest coverage rate for two doses of COVID-19 vaccine (30.0%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (76.7%) and 12-17 age group (77.6%) (**Figure 10**).

Figure 10: COVID-19 Second Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: April 25, 2022

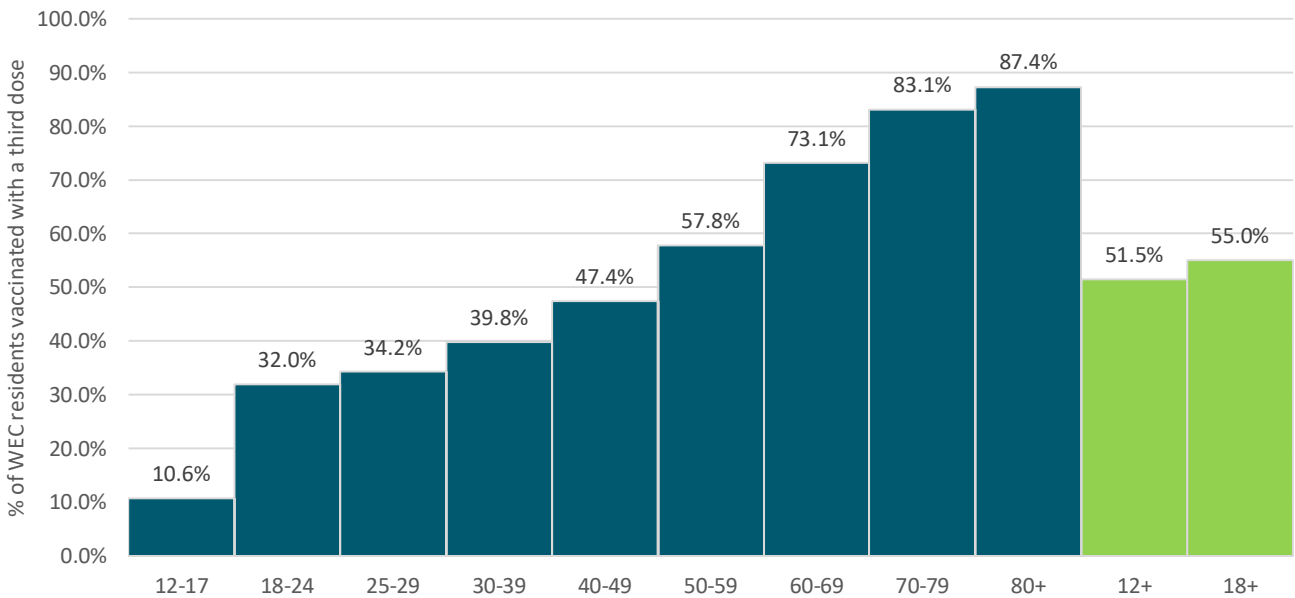


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: April 25, 2022

Third Dose Coverage Rates by Age Group

The overall coverage rate of third doses among eligible Windsor and Essex County residents is 51.5%. Comparing across ages, the 12-17 age group has the lowest third dose coverage rate (10.6%), followed by those in the 18-24 age group (32.0%) and 25-29 age group (34.2%) (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11: COVID-19 Third Dose Coverage Rate by Age Group in Windsor and Essex County: April 25, 2022

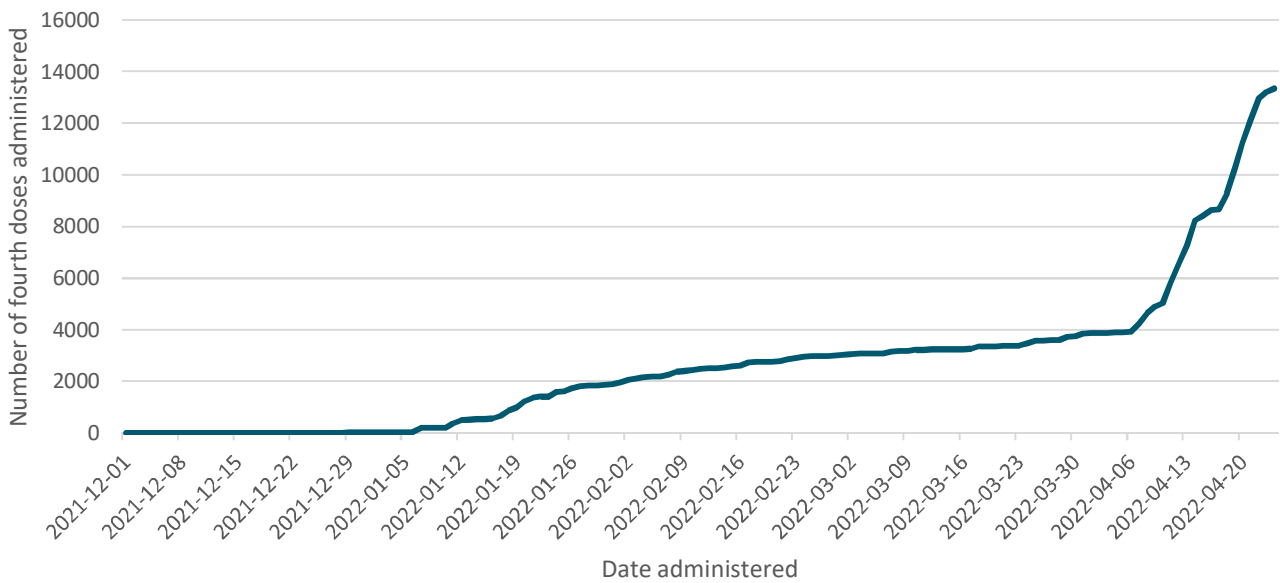


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: April 25, 2022

Cumulative Fourth Doses Administered Over Time

A total of 13,348 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: April 25, 2022

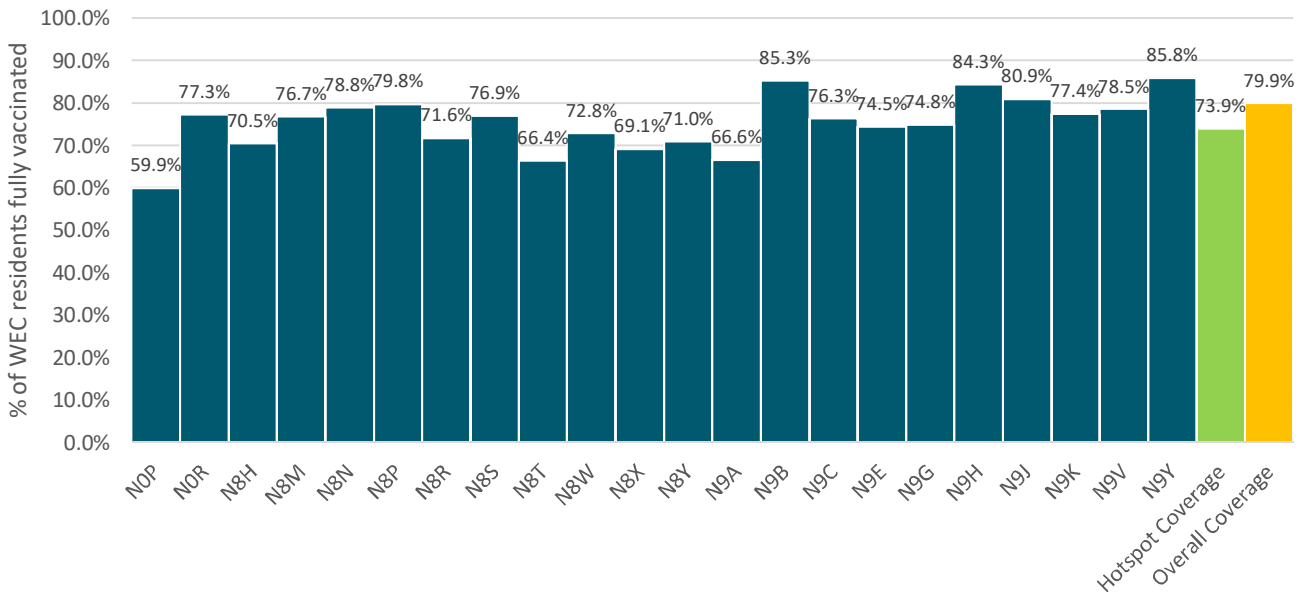


Source: Vaccine administration, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHeath COVaxON. Data extracted on: April 25, 2022

Second Dose Coverage Rate by Forward Sortation Area (FSA)

The overall second dose coverage rate is 79.9% 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 (59.9%), N8T (66.4%) and N9A (66.6%) 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: April 25, 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: April 25, 2022

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

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