

Nova Scotia Weekly COVID-19 Epidemiologic Summary: 19 April 2022

Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

Highlights:

- Comparisons between this week's report and last week's report should be interpreted with this caveat: this report covers a 7-day period, and the previous report covered a 6-day period.
- An additional 7,508 PCR positive results, 84 hospitalizations and 13 deaths were reported this week (April 12- April 18).
- The number of PCR positive results have shown an increasing trend since March, as has the number of cases linked to long-term and residential care facility outbreaks; however, the data suggests these trends may have stabilized.
- The number of PCR positive tests does not represent a true case count in the province and is likely an underestimate. While confirmatory PCR testing following a rapid test positive is available, it is not a requirement.
- The number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 this week was similar to last week after considering the difference in reporting periods (7 vs. 6 days). The number of deaths was slightly lower.
- Individuals aged 65 years and older have an 8 times greater rate of hospitalization and 55 times greater rate of death than those aged 18 to 49 years.
- Vaccination continues to significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization and death. People who have received three doses of a vaccine had an 82.5 per cent lower risk of hospitalization and 90.7 per cent lower risk of death than people who have not been vaccinated or only received one dose.
- The rate of severe outcomes (hospitalization and death) is lower in Wave 5 compared to previous waves, particularly the first wave when vaccines were not available. Omicron has been the dominant variant in the wave 5.
- For Wave 5, the case fatality rate (% who died) among long-term care residents (2.4 per cent) has been substantially lower compared to all other waves, particularly the first wave (21.7 per cent).

Wave 5 COVID-19 Cases and Severe Outcomes – December 8, 2021 to present

Table 1. PCR positive results, hospitalizations and deaths*

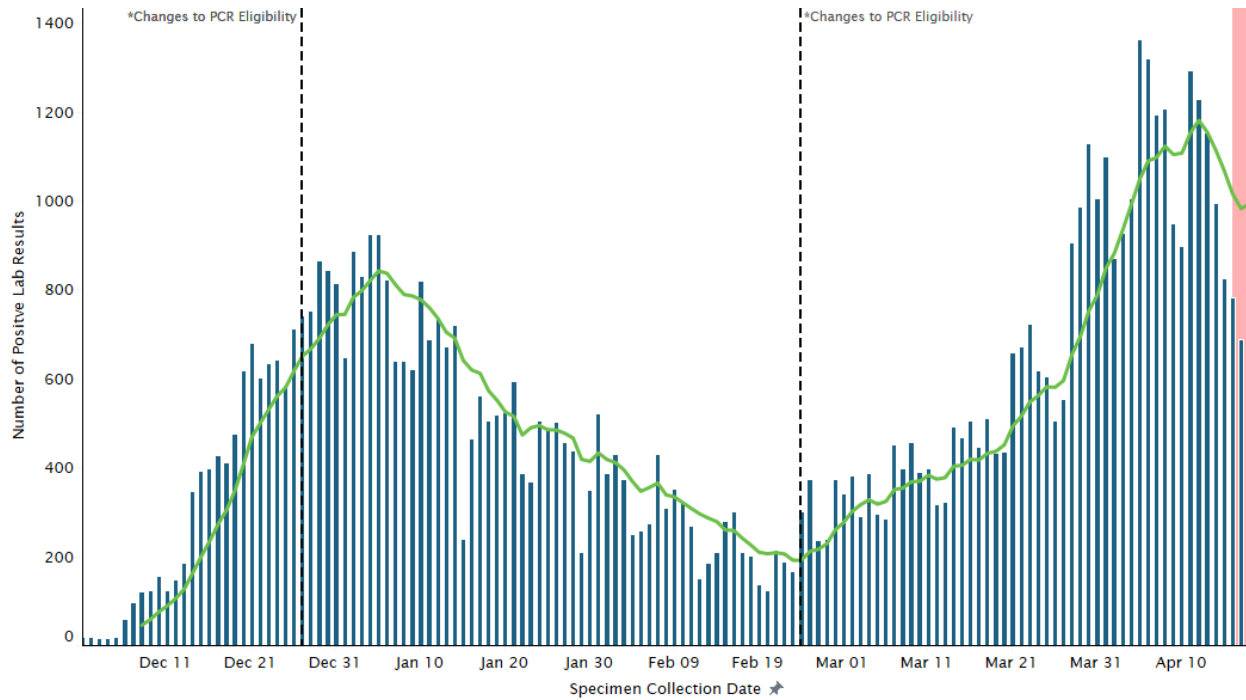
	Number reported in the current week (April 12-April 18)	Number reported in the previous week (April 6-April 11)	Change from last reporting period	Wave 5 cumulative totals (December 8, 2021 - present)	Age range	Median age	Median LOS
PCR positives	7,508	6,912	596	72,449	0 - 110	41	n/a
Hospitalizations	84	72	12	945	0 - 101	71	6.8 days
Deaths	13	14	-1	178	10 - 100	80	n/a

Data sources: PCR positive results – Provincial Public Health Lab Network; Hospitalizations – PPHLN, Meditech, STAR; Deaths – Panorama

*Notes:

- Current week is based on a 7-day reporting period and previous week is based on a 6-day period
- LOS means length of stay

Figure 1. Number and seven-day moving average of PCR positive results by collection date (N=72449)

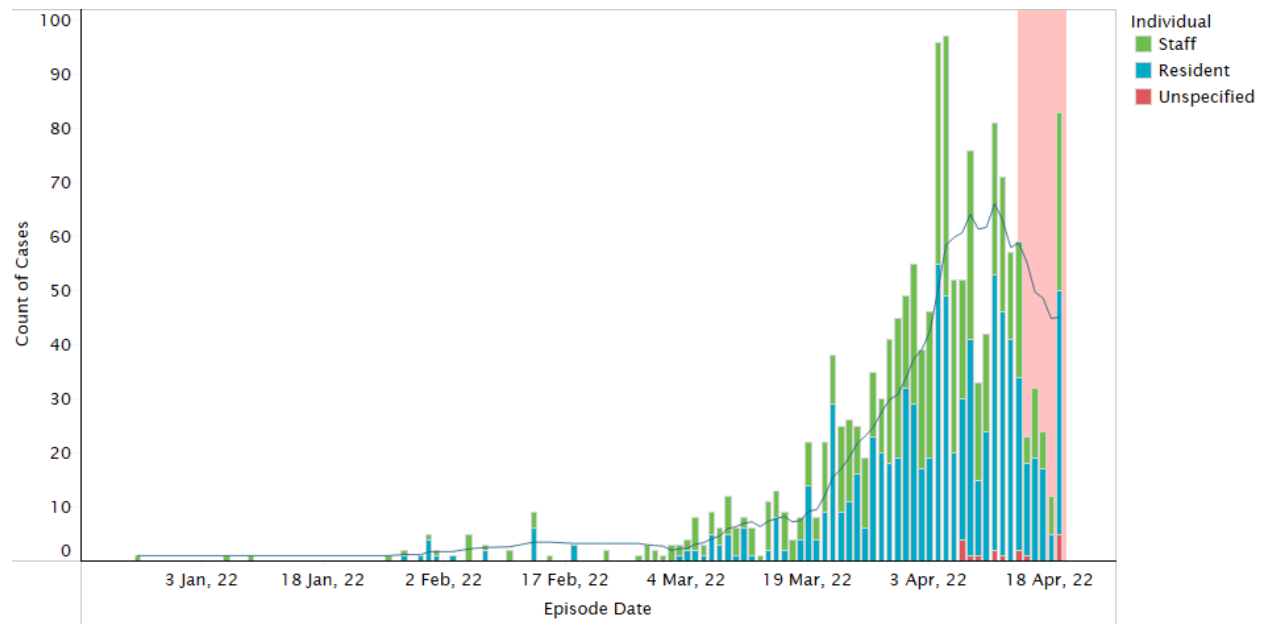


Data source: Provincial Public Health Lab Network

***Notes:**

- Laboratory tests are also referred to as PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests
- The previous 3 days presented in the red area should be interpreted with caution. PCR positive results during this timeframe may rise as labs continue to be processed
- Due to a change in how rapid antigen positive confirmatory tests are being captured in the laboratory data, it is no longer possible to report these results separately.
- Two changes to PCR eligibility were made during Wave 5:
 - o On December 27, 2021, PCR testing was limited to certain priority groups, including those at highest risk of severe disease, people living in long-term care, and health-care workers (outlined in the following link: <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirustesting>).
 - o On February 24, 2022, PCR testing eligibility was expanded to include confirmatory testing for anyone who tested positive on a rapid test.

Figure 2. Number of COVID-19 cases and seven-day moving average of cases linked to open long-term care and residential care facility outbreaks (N=1,426)



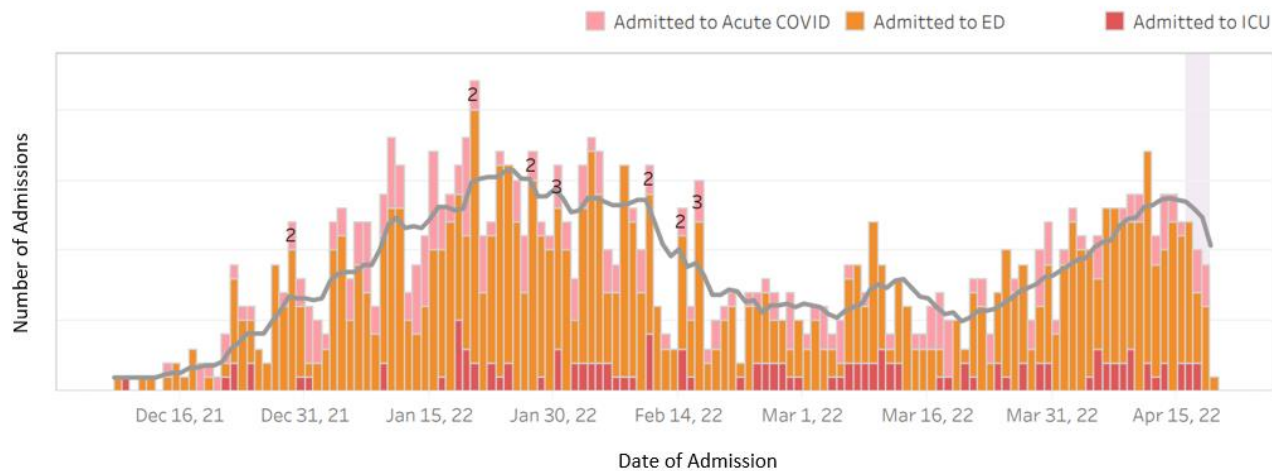
Data source: Panorama

*Notes:

- Only open (ongoing) confirmed outbreaks are included
- A confirmed outbreak is defined as two or more lab-confirmed cases in residents and/or staff within a 14-day period AND an epidemiological link between cases AND at least one reported case could have acquired the infection in the facility
- Only facilities that are designated as long-term care congregate settings are included; it excludes residential care facilities and disability support program facilities with 12 or fewer residents
- Includes confirmed and probable cases entered into Panorama and linked to the outbreak
- Episode date is recorded as the date of symptom onset. If that information is unavailable, the following is used (in hierarchical order): specimen collection date, lab result date clinical diagnosis date
- The five-day period presented in the red area should be interpreted with caution. Case counts during this timeframe may rise as individuals are identified and tested; as tests are processed; as data is inputted into Panorama

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Figure 3. Daily COVID-19 hospital admissions by unit type (N=1,364)



Data sources: PPHLN, Meditech and STAR

*Note:

- The five-day period presented in the red area should be interpreted with caution. Case counts during this timeframe may rise as individuals are identified and tested and as tests are processed

Table 2. Hospitalization* and death rates by age group during Wave 5

Age Group	Number	Crude Rate per 100k
Hospitalizations		
<18 years	42	22.5
18-49 years	130	35.1
50-64 years	172	78.5
65+ years	601	278.4
Deaths		
<18 years	<5	-
18-49 years	5	1.3
50-64 years	18	8.2
65+ years	154	71.3

Data source: Hospitalizations - PPHLN, Meditech and STAR; Deaths – Panorama; Denominator - Statistics Canada.

*Note:

- Individuals with missing age are excluded

Table 3. Age-adjusted hospitalization* and death rates by vaccine status during Wave 5

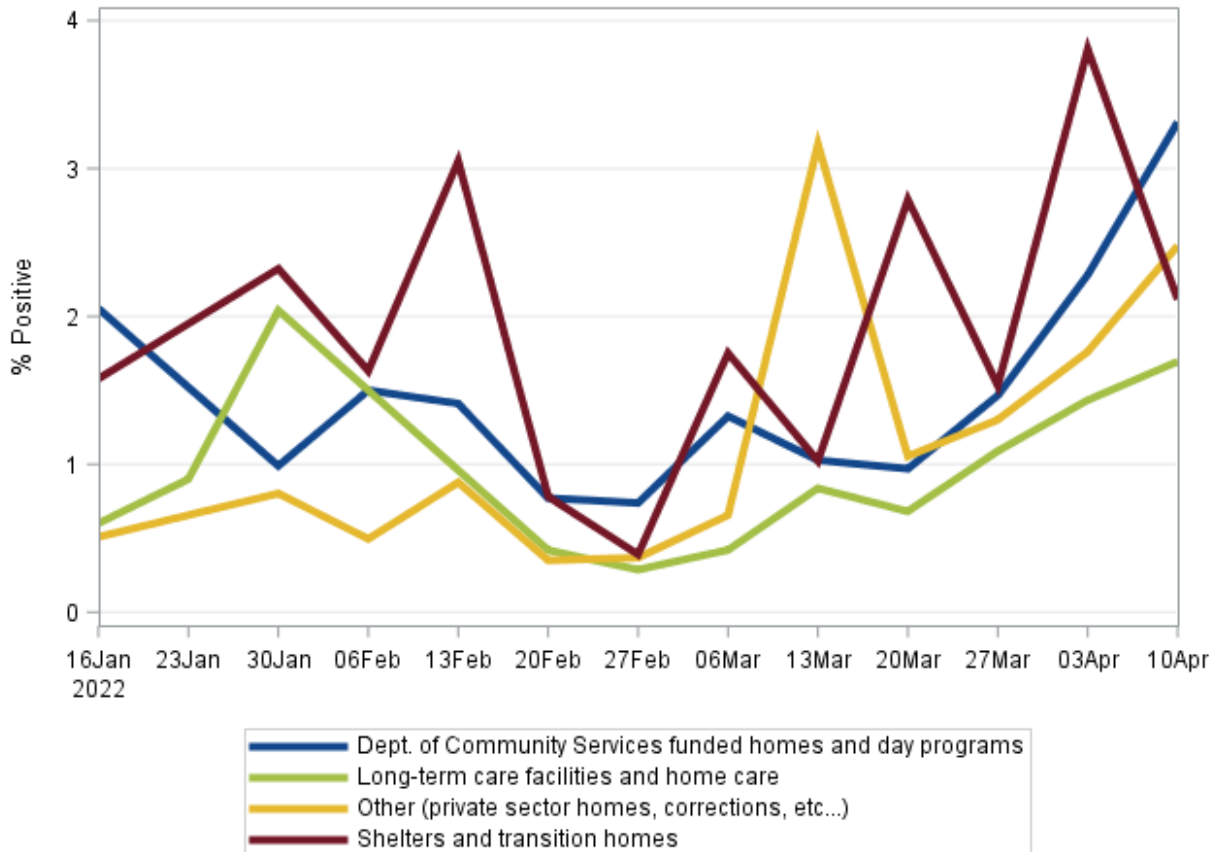
Vaccination Status	Number	Crude Rate per 100k Person-Years	Age-Adjusted Rate per 100k Person-Years	Risk Reduction (Relative to Unvaccinated/1 Dose)
Hospitalizations				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	246	398.0	1116.9	N/A
2 Dose	330	181.7	204.5	81.7%
3 Dose	369	310.8	195.7	82.5%
Deaths				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	45	72.8	240.4	N/A
2 Dose	85	46.8	57.7	76.0%
3 Dose	48	40.4	22.4	90.7%

Data source: Hospitalizations - PPHLN, Meditech and STAR; Deaths – Panorama; Denominator - Statistics Canada
Notes:

- Individuals with missing age are excluded from the analysis (counts, crude rates, age-adjusted rates, risk reduction)
- A person is considered unvaccinated when they have zero doses of any COVID-19 vaccine
- A person is considered to have one dose when they have a single dose of any vaccine OR are within 14 days of receiving a second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine
- A person is considered to have two doses 14 or more days after the second dose of any vaccine OR are within 14 days of receiving a third dose of any COVID-19 vaccine
- A person is considered to have three doses 14 or more days after a third dose of any COVID-19 vaccine

Community-based Rapid Test; January 10,2022 to present

Figure 4. Proportion of positive rapid antigen test results for some high priority populations, by week



Data source = High Priority Testing Stream

*Notes:

- Denominator is total number of tests distributed
- Includes Department of Community Services-funded homes and day programs, shelters and transition homes, long-term care facilities and home care, private group homes, and correctional facilities

Full pandemic descriptive summary – March 2020-present

Table 4. Summary of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and outcomes, by wave

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
Number of cases	1,100	662	4,167	3,056	72,449
% Hospitalized (non-ICU + ICU)	5.3%	2.1%	6.3%	3.1%	1.3%
% Hospitalized ICU	1.4%	0.5%	1.8%	0.8%	0.2%
% Deceased	5.9%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.2%

Data sources: Panorama (cases, hospitalizations, deaths in waves 1-4; deaths in wave 5), Provincial Public Health Laboratory Network (positive PCR tests in wave 5), Meditech and STAR (hospitalizations), Panorama (deaths)

Wave dates are classified as follows

- Wave 1 – March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020
- Wave 2 – October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
- Wave 3 – April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021
- Wave 4 – August 1, 2021 to December 7, 2021
- Wave 5 – December 8, 2021 to present

Table 5. Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths among residents of long-term care facilities, by wave

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Total
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 cases	263	3	7	43	1,640	1,956
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 deaths	57	0	1	4	40	102
Case Fatality Rate	21.7%	0.0%	14.3%	9.3%	2.4%	5.2%

Data source: Panorama

*Notes:

- Case counts can increase or decrease depending on confirmatory testing of probable cases
- Case counts include confirmed and probable cases that were classified as LTC residents in Panorama. This does not include individuals attached to outbreaks in other congregate settings (i.e. assisted living, group homes, etc.)

Wave dates are classified as follows

- Wave 1 – March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020
- Wave 2 – October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
- Wave 3 – April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021
- Wave 4 – August 1, 2021 to December 7, 2021
- Wave 5 – December 8, 2021 to present

Data Sources and Notes:

Panorama

- Data are valid to the day of the report at 07:00
- Data presented in this report contain the information available at the time of data extraction. It may be incomplete pending follow-up. As more information becomes available, it will be included in subsequent reports.

Provincial Public Health Laboratory Network

- Data are valid to the day of the report at 05:30.
- Data presented in this report contain the information available at the time of data extraction. It may be incomplete pending follow-up. As more information becomes available, it will be included in subsequent reports

Meditech and STAR (Nova Scotia Health)

- Data are valid to the day of the report at 04:00
- Data are based on positive lab results and reflect patients with a valid health card number at the time of testing or admission
- Data presented in this report contain the information available at the time of data extraction. It may be incomplete pending follow-up. As more information becomes available, it will be included in subsequent reports
- Includes patients that are assumed to be admitted for COVID-related treatment based on inpatient location

High Priority Testing Stream

- Data are valid to the Sunday before the report at 11:59pm

Statistics Canada - Table 17-10-0005-01 - Population estimates on July 1st (2021), by age and sex

COVID-19 Case Definitions

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/national-case-definition.html>