

Nova Scotia Weekly COVID-19 Epidemiologic Summary: 26 April 2022

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

Highlights:

- This report introduces Wave 6 in keeping with the epidemiology of COVID-19 in the province. Cases occurring on or after March 1, 2022, are included in Wave 6 reporting. Both Wave 5 and 6 are Omicron waves and therefore Tables 1 to 3 report combined data.
- An additional 5,436 PCR positive results, 91 hospitalizations and 24 deaths from COVID-19 were reported during the seven-day period ending April 25.
- The number of PCR positive results peaked in early- to mid-April and has started to decline. The number of cases linked to long-term care and residential care facility outbreaks has stabilized over the same period.
- The number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 was higher this week than last. The number of deaths was also higher. These increases are not unexpected as measures for severe outcomes lag behind new infections.
- Age continues to be associated with severe outcomes:
 - The risk of hospitalization is 10 times higher for those aged 70 years and older compared to those 18 to 49 years old.
 - The risk of death is 85 times higher for those aged 70 years and older compared to those younger than 50.
- Vaccination continues to offer protection against severe outcomes.
 - Those who received 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine had an 85.2% lower risk of hospitalization and a 92.7% lower risk of death than those who were unvaccinated or had only one dose.
 - The proportion of people with confirmed COVID-19 infections who are hospitalized or die continues to be low in Wave 6: 1.1% of cases were hospitalized and 0.2% of cases have died. However, the percentage of hospitalizations and deaths will likely increase as these outcomes lag behind new infections.
- The total number of COVID-19 cases in residents of long-term care facilities is higher in the Omicron waves (5 and 6) than in previous waves. The proportion of cases in long-term care facilities who die is low in Omicron waves particularly compared to the first wave.

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

Table 1: PCR positive results, hospitalizations and deaths (Waves 5 and 6)

	Number in current week	Number in previous week	Change from last week	December 8, 2021-present totals	Age range	Median age	Median LoS
PCR positives	5,436	7,541	-2,105	77,614	0 - 110	42	n/a
Hospitalizations	91	84	7	1,028	0 - 102	71	6.8 days
Deaths	24	13	11	202	10 - 100	80	n/a

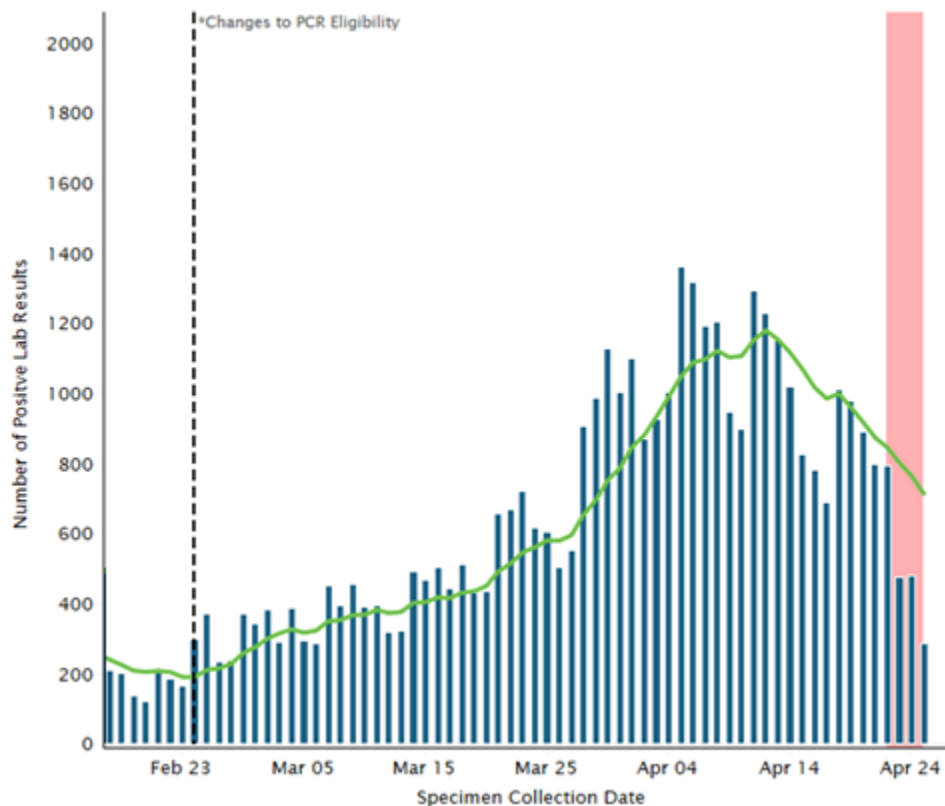
Data sources: PCR positive results – Provincial Public Health Lab Network; Hospitalizations – PPHLN, Meditech, STAR; Deaths – Panorama

Notes:

- Laboratory tests are also referred to as PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests
- LOS means length of stay
- Wave 5 ends on February 28, 2022; Wave 6 begins March 1, 2022

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Figure 1: Number and seven-day moving average of PCR positive results by collection date, Feb 15 to Apr 26, 2022 (N=43,262)

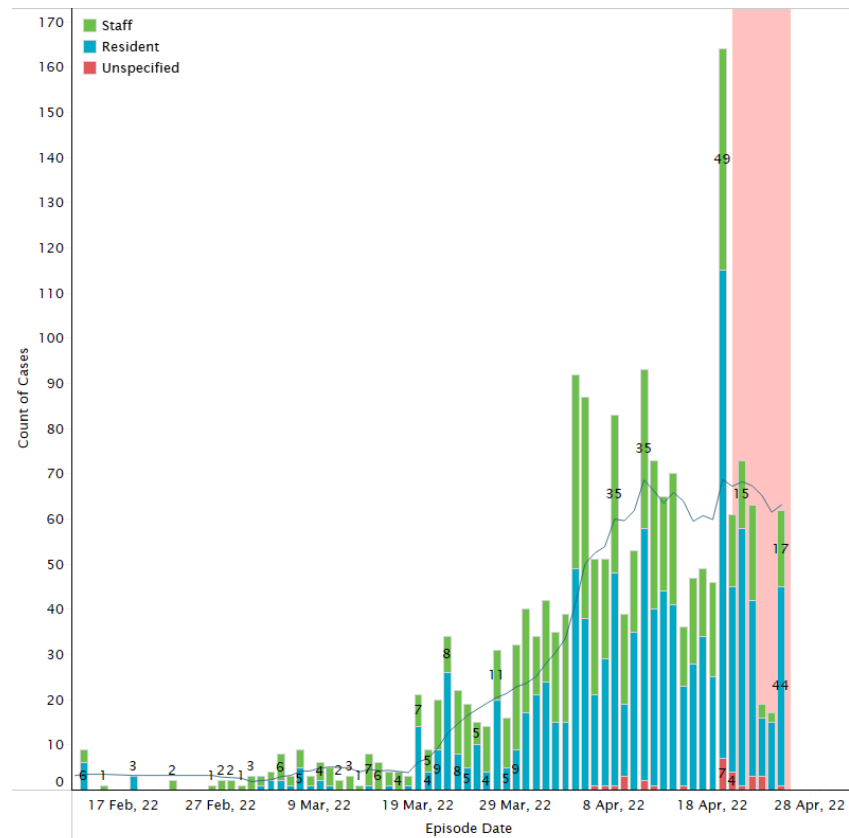


Data source: Provincial Public Health Lab Network

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
- Access to PCR tests are restricted to eligible populations as outlined in the following link: <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirustesting>.
- Eligibility has changed over time. Before February 24, 2022 confirmatory PCR testing for people who tested positive on a rapid test was not available.

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, Feb 15 to Apr 26, 2022 (N=1095)



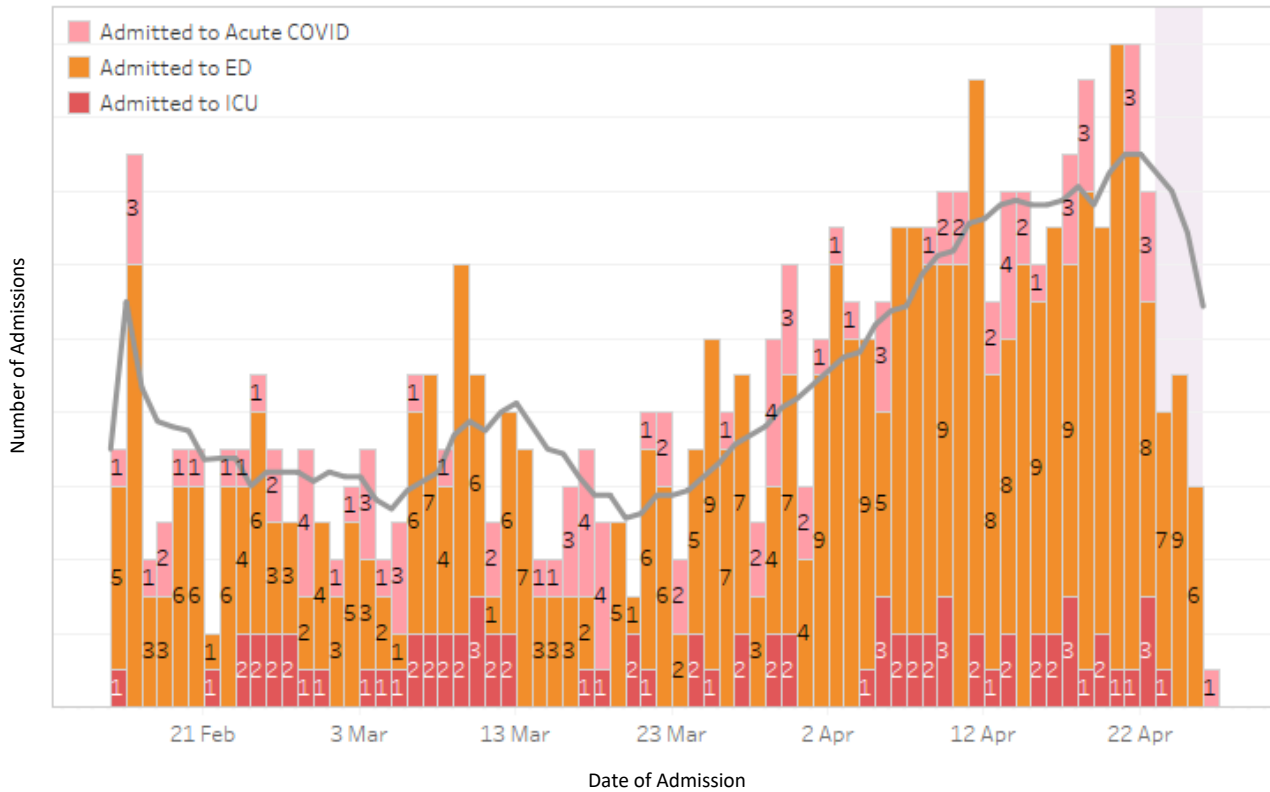
Data source: Panorama

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, Feb 15 to Apr 26, 2022 (N=629)



Data source: PPHLN, Meditech and STAR

Note:

- The five-day period presented in the grey 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 since December 8, 2021
(Waves 5 and 6)**

	Number	Crude rate per 100K	Relative Risk
Hospitalizations			
<18 years	45	24.2	0.7
18-49 years*	138	37.2	1.0
50-69 years	294	103.0	2.8
70+ years	557	377.7	10.2
Deaths			
<50 years*	7	1.3	1.0
50-69 years	32	11.1	8.5
70+ years	163	110.5	85.0

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

- * denotes reference category. All risks are presented in comparison to the reference category. Comparisons are made by dividing the age-specific rates in the age category of interest to the age-specific rates in the reference category

Table 3: Age-adjusted hospitalization* and death rates by vaccine status since December 8, 2021 (Waves 5 and 6)

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	265	212.3	1372.8	N/A
2 Dose	348	113.6	211.2	84.6%
3 Dose	421	248.8	203.1	85.2%
Deaths				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	49	39.3	332.2	N/A
2 Dose	94	30.7	63.7	80.8%
3 Dose	59	34.9	24.4	92.7%

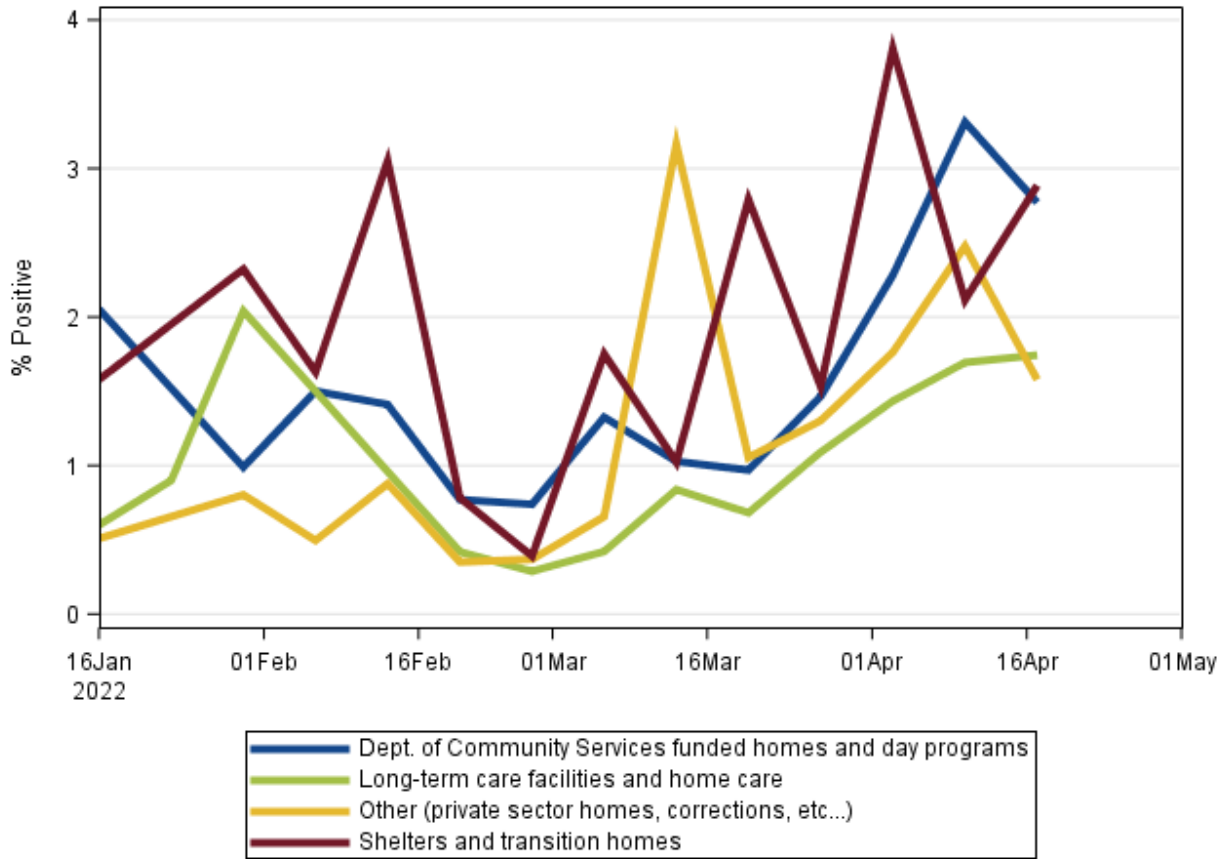
Data source: Hospitalizations - PPHLN, Meditech and STAR; Deaths – Panorama; Denominator - Statistics Canada

*Notes:

- Hospitalizations for individuals 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 Testing; 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 5: Summary of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and outcomes, by wave

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6
Number of cases	1,100	662	4,167	3,056	37,547	40,067
% Hospitalized	5.3%	2.1%	6.3%	3.1%	1.5%	1.1%
% ICU	1.4%	0.5%	1.8%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%
% Deceased	5.9%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	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)

Notes:

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 February 28, 2022
- Wave 6 – March 1, 2022 to present

Table 6: 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	Wave 6	Total
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 cases	263	3	7	43	784	1,273	2,373
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 deaths	57	0	1	4	22	30	114
Case fatality rate	21.7%	0.0%	14.3%	9.3%	2.8%	2.4%	4.8%

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.).

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- Wave 4 – August 1, 2021 to December 7, 2021
- Wave 5 – December 8, 2021 to February 28, 2022
- Wave 6 – March 1, 2022 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

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

High Priority Testing Stream

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

COVID-19 Case Definitions

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