

## Nova Scotia Weekly COVID-19 Epidemiologic Summary: 28 June 2022

Public Health Branch  
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

### Highlights:

- An additional 1,491 PCR positive results, 28 hospitalizations and 4 deaths from COVID-19 were reported during the seven-day period ending June 27.
- The number of lab-confirmed cases reported this week were slightly higher than last week. Cases linked to long-term care/residential facilities, hospitalizations, and deaths have all declined in recent weeks.
- Of the 4 deaths reported this week, 3 were in people aged 70 years and older and 1 was in someone who resided in a long-term care facility.
- Age continues to be associated with severe outcomes:
  - The risk of hospitalization is 11.5 times higher for those aged 70 years and older and 2.9 times higher for those aged 50 to 69 years compared to those aged 18 to 49 years.
  - The risk of death is approximately 116.6 times higher for those aged 70 years and older and 10 times higher for those aged 50 to 69 years compared to those younger than 50.
  - The risk of hospitalization and death is 2.3 and 8.5 times higher, respectively, for those aged 70 years and older who received three or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine compared to those aged 50-69 years who received three or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Staying up to date with vaccinations – that is, getting all the doses available for your age group and health status, including boosters – offers significant protection against severe outcomes.
  - Those who received three or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine had an 90.0% lower risk of hospitalization and a 93.8% lower risk of death than those who were unvaccinated or had only one dose.
  - When adjusted for age, those unvaccinated or with only one dose have 9 times the rate of death compared to those with two doses and 16 times the rate of death compared to those with three or more doses.
  - Unvaccinated people between aged 50-69 years have 5.2 times more risk of hospitalization and 12.7 times more risk of death than those with three or more doses.
  - Unvaccinated people aged 70 years and older have 13.5 times more risk of hospitalization and 17.4 times more risk of death than those with three or more doses.
- The proportion of people with confirmed COVID-19 infections who experience severe outcomes (hospitalization and death) continues to be relatively low during the Omicron waves compared to earlier waves. Since March 1, 2022 (Wave 6 to date), 1.5% of cases were hospitalized and 0.3% of cases have died.
- The total number of COVID-19 cases in residents of long-term care facilities is higher in the Omicron waves than in previous waves, and more than three times as many cases have been reported in Wave 6 than in Wave 5. The overall fatality rate remains relatively low in the Omicron waves particularly compared to Wave 1.

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

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

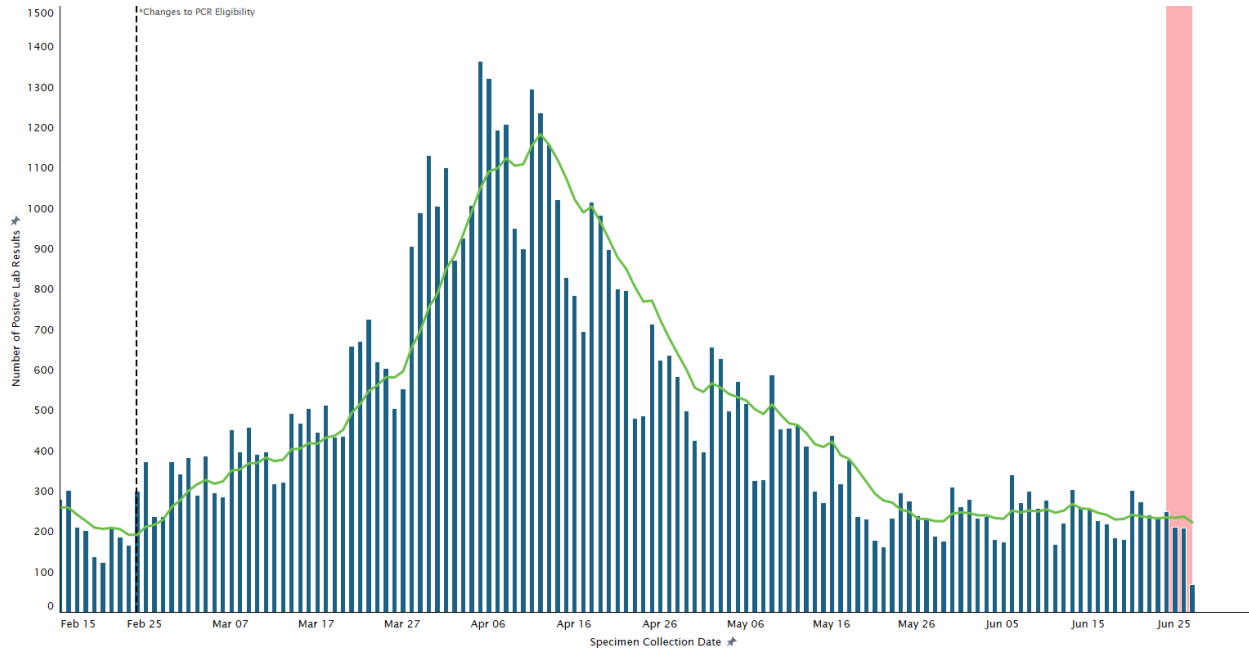
	Number in current week	Number in previous week	Change from last week	December 8, 2021-present totals	Age range (years)	Median age (years)	Median LoS (days)
<b>PCR positives</b>	1,491	1,420	71	98,132	0 - 110	43	n/a
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	28	37	-9	1,427	0 - 103	71	6.3
<b>Deaths</b>	4	7	-3	330	10 - 101	81	n/a

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

Notes:

- PCR refers to polymerase chain reaction tests performed in a lab
- LoS means length of stay

**Figure 1: Number and seven-day moving average of PCR positive results by collection date, February 15 to June 28, 2022 (N=63,914)**

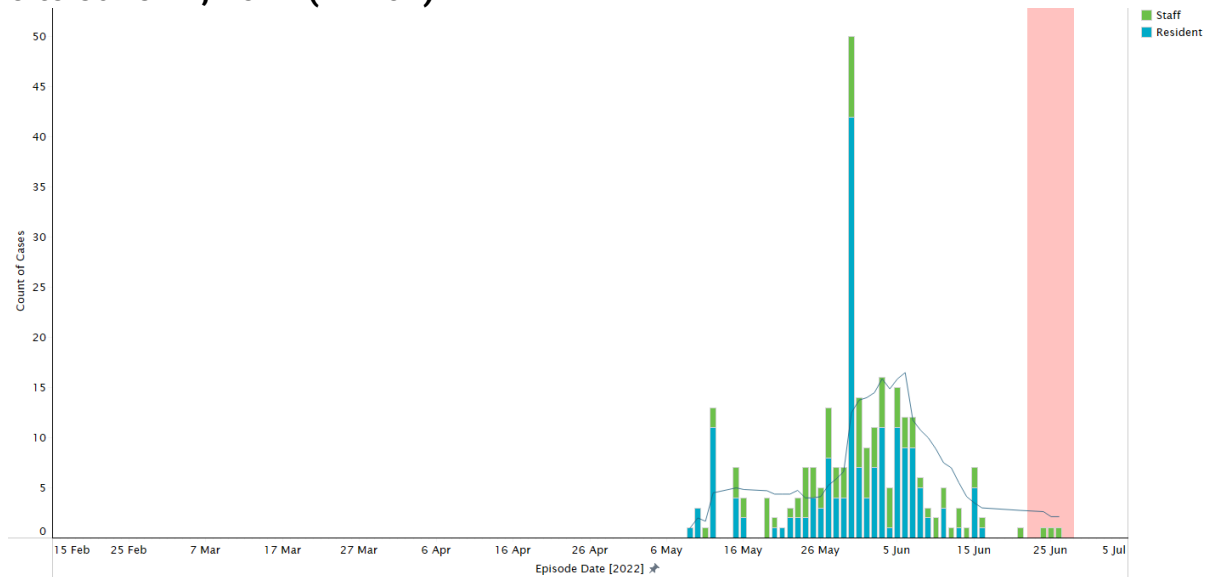


Data source: Provincial Public Health Lab Network

Notes:

- PCR refers to polymerase chain reaction tests performed in a lab
- 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
- Only the first positive result for the same individual within a 90-day period are counted; subsequent positive results will constitute a new infection (i.e., a re-infection).
- 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, February 15 to June 27, 2022 (N=267)**



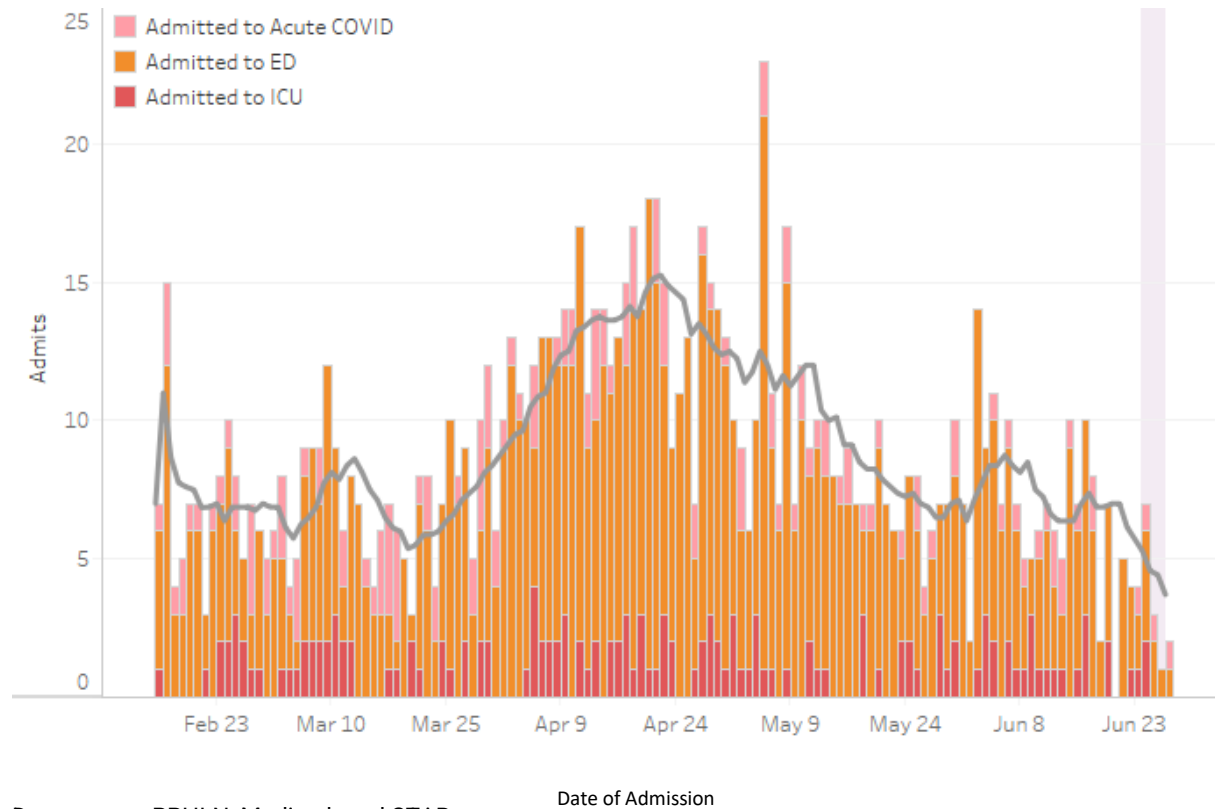
Data source: Panorama

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 are inputted into Panorama

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**Figure 3: Daily COVID-19 hospital admissions by unit type, February 15 to June 27, 2022 (N=1156)**



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  
(Wave 5 and 6)**

	Number	Crude rate per 100K	Relative Risk
<b>Hospitalizations</b>			
<18 years	57	30.6	0.6
18-49 years**	175	47.2	1.0
50-69 years	396	137.8	2.9
70+ years	799	541.7	11.5
<b>Deaths</b>			
<50 years**	9	1.6	1.0
50-69 years	46	16.0	10.0
70+ years	275	186.5	116.6

Data sources: 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)
- \*\* = 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  
December 8, 2021 to present (Wave 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)
<b>Hospitalizations</b>				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	323	188.9	2045.7	N/A
2 Dose	394	97.3	198.4	90.3%
3+ Dose	710	245.9	204.4	90.0%
<b>Deaths</b>				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	67	39.2	625.3	N/A
2 Dose	114	28.2	66.2	89.4%
3+ Dose	149	51.6	38.6	93.8%

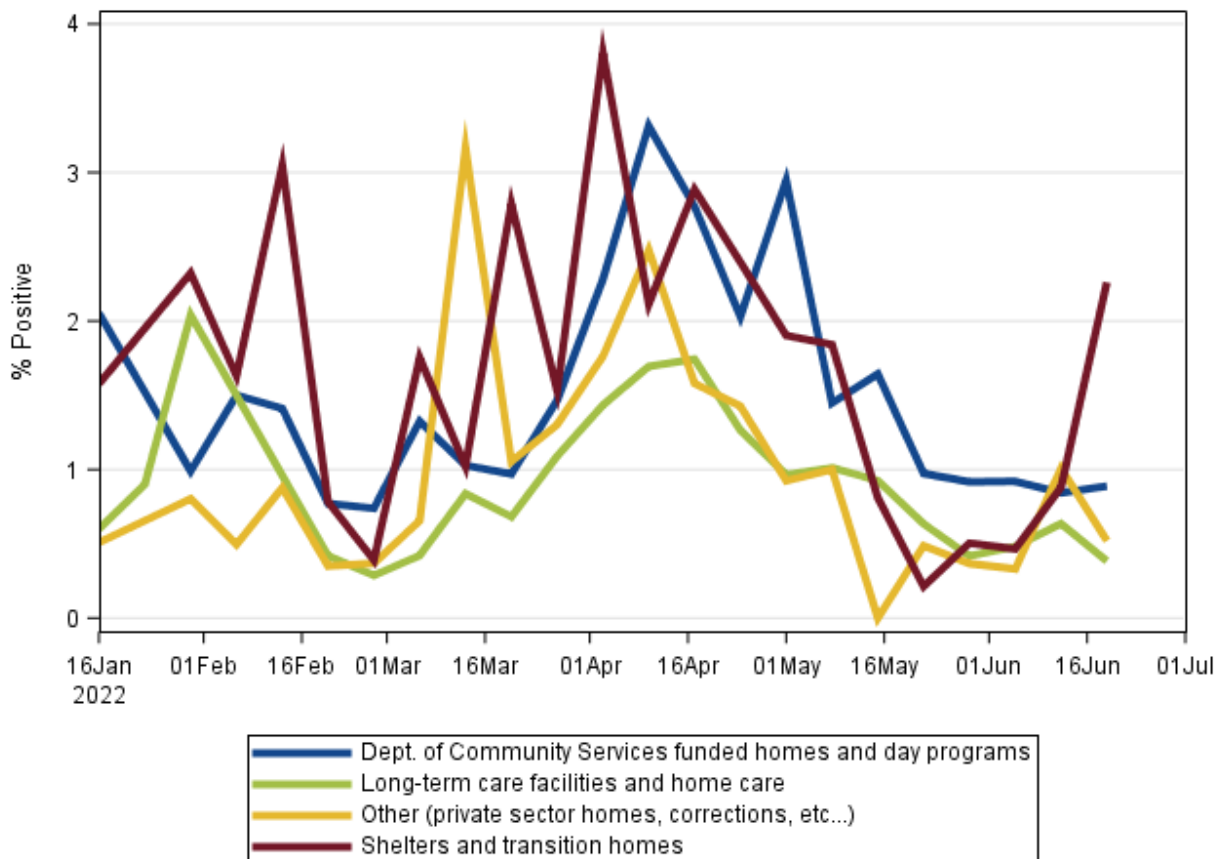
Data sources: Hospitalizations - PPHLN, Meditech and STAR; Deaths – Panorama; Denominator - Statistics Canada

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 a two-dose primary series 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 14 or more days after one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine OR are within 14 days of receiving a third dose of any COVID-19 vaccine
- A person is considered to have three or more 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:

- 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 to 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	Wave 6
Number of cases	1,100	662	4,167	3,056	37,556	60,576
% Hospitalized	5.3%	2.1%	6.3%	3.1%	1.4%	1.5%
% ICU	1.4%	0.5%	1.8%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%
% Deceased	5.9%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%

Data sources: Cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Waves 1-4 -- Panorama; PCR positive results in Waves 5-6 -- PPHLN; Hospitalizations in Waves 5-6 -- Meditech and STAR

**Note:**

- Wave dates are classified as follows
  - o Wave 1 – March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020
  - o Wave 2 – October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
  - o Wave 3 – April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021
  - o Wave 4 – August 1, 2021 to December 7, 2021
  - o Wave 5 – December 8, 2021 to February 28, 2022
  - o Wave 6 – March 1, 2022 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	Wave 6	Total
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 cases	263	3	7	43	783	2,429	3,528
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 deaths	57	0	1	4	23	75	160
Case fatality rate	21.7%	0.0%	14.3%	9.3%	2.9%	3.1%	4.5%

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
  - o Wave 1 – March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020
  - o Wave 2 – October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
  - o Wave 3 – April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021
  - o Wave 4 – August 1, 2021 to December 7, 2021
  - o Wave 5 – December 8, 2021 to February 28, 2022
  - o 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>