

Nova Scotia Weekly COVID-19 Epidemiologic Summary: 03 May 2022

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

Highlights:

- An additional 3,415 PCR positive results, 77 hospitalizations and 22 deaths from COVID-19 were reported during the seven-day period ending May 2. The number of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 was lower this week than last.
- The number of PCR positive results peaked in early- to mid-April and continues to decline. The data also suggest that the number of cases linked to long-term care and residential care facility outbreaks and the number of hospitalizations appears to have stabilized in the past two weeks.
- Age continues to be associated with severe outcomes:
 - The risk of hospitalization is approximately 10 times higher for those aged 70 years and older compared to those 18 to 49 years old.
 - The risk of death is approximately 95 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 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine had an 84.5% lower risk of hospitalization and a 92.9% 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 relatively low during the Omicron waves compared to earlier waves. Since March 1, 2022 (Wave 6 to date), 1.2% of cases were hospitalized and 0.2% 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 there have been more than double the number of cases in wave 6 compared to wave 5. However, the proportion of cases in long-term care facilities who die remains relatively low in the 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)

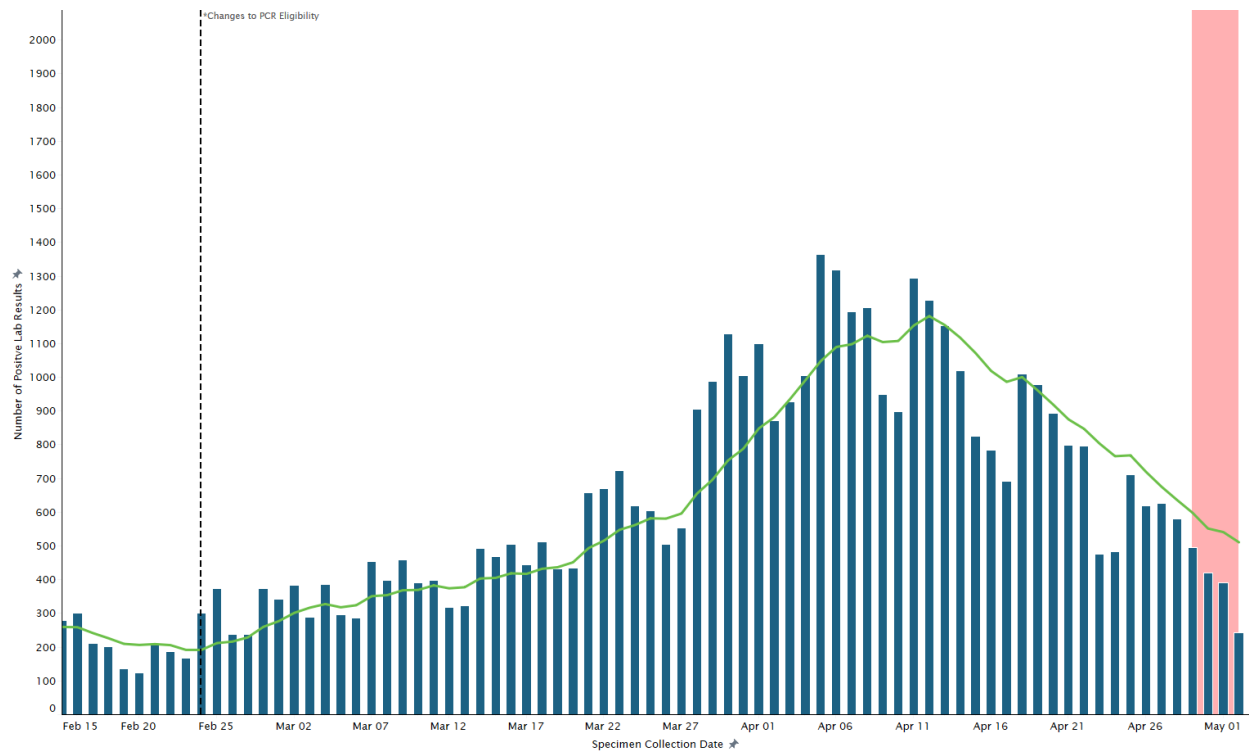
	Number in current week	Number in previous week	Change from last week	December 8, 2021-present totals	Age range	Median age	Median LoS
PCR positives	3,415	5,436	-2,021	81,290	0 - 110	42	n/a
Hospitalizations	77	91	-14	1,080	0 - 102	71	6.7 days
Deaths	22	24	-2	224	10 - 100	81	n/a

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

Figure 1: Number and seven-day moving average of PCR positive results by collection date, Feb 15 to May 3, 2022 (N=47,067)

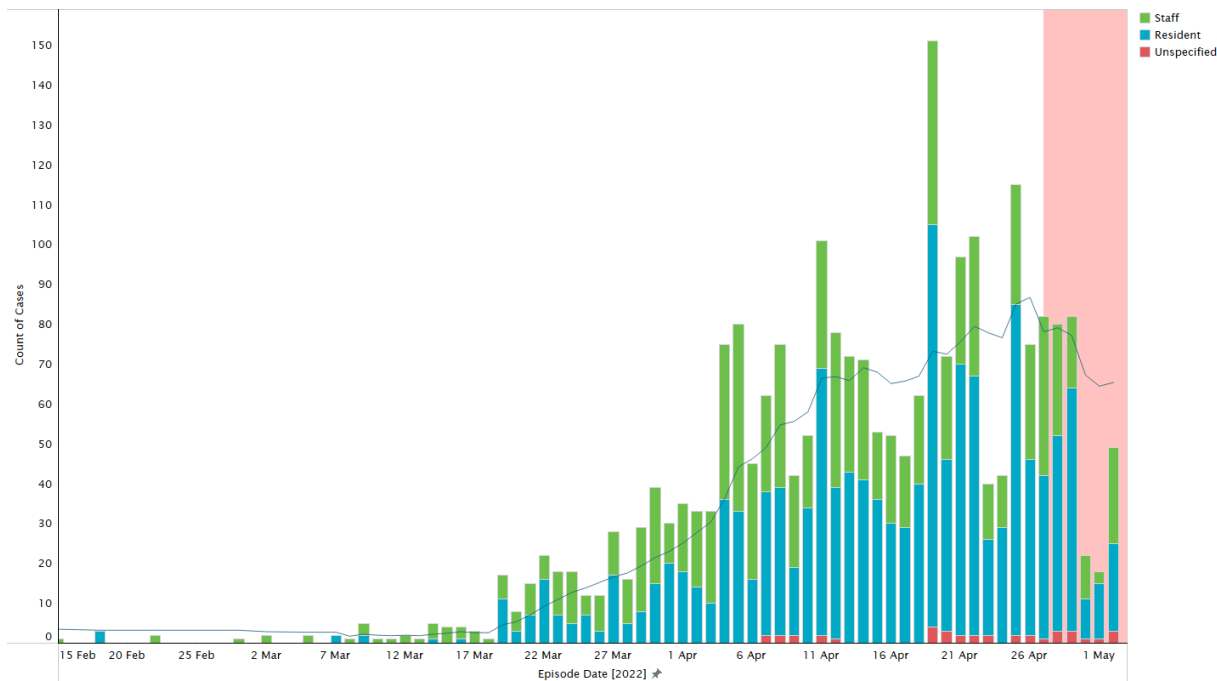


Data source: Provincial Public Health Lab Network

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 May 3, 2022 (N=2400)



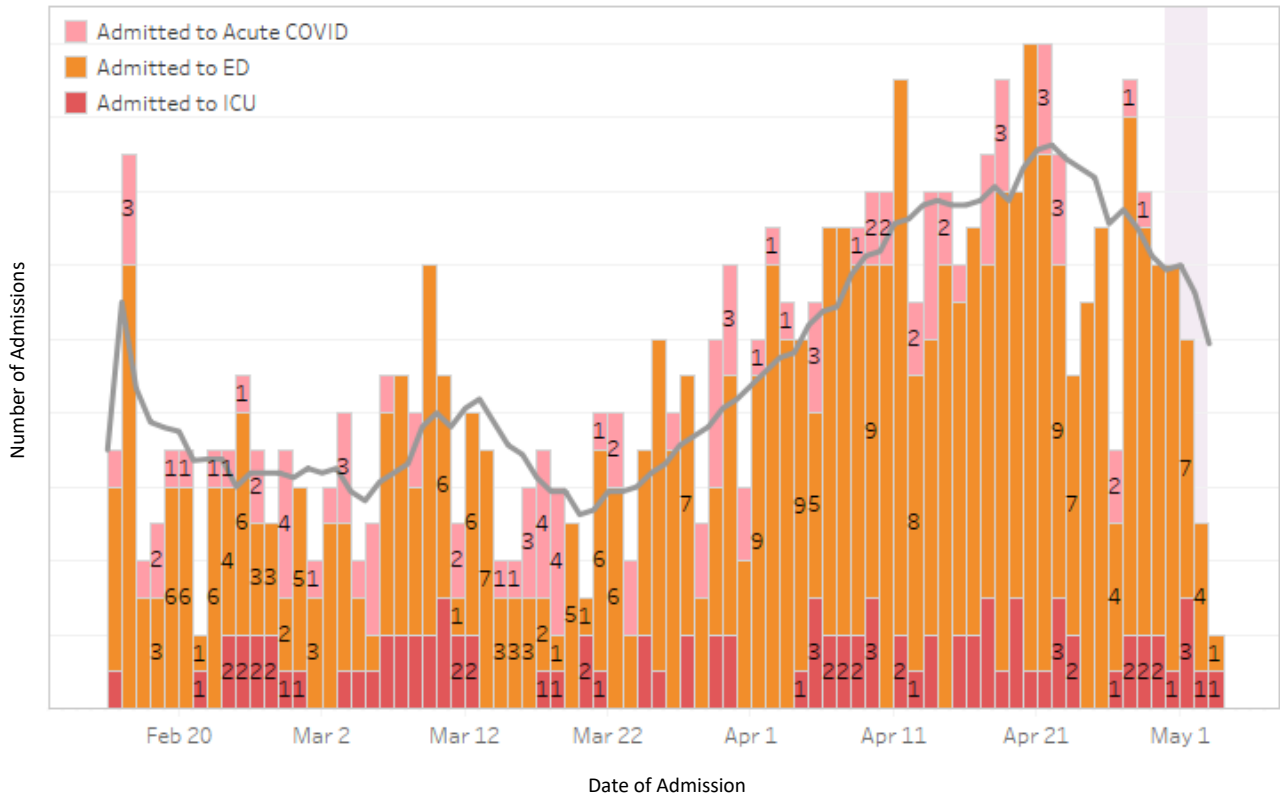
Data source: Panorama

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 May 3, 2022 (N=723)



Data sources: 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	48	25.8	0.7
18-49 years**	143	38.6	1.0
50-69 years	303	105.4	2.7
70+ years	586	397.3	10.3
Deaths			
<50 years**	7	1.3	1.0
50-69 years	35	12.2	9.4
70+ years	182	123.4	94.9

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 since December 8, 2021 (Wave 5 and 6)

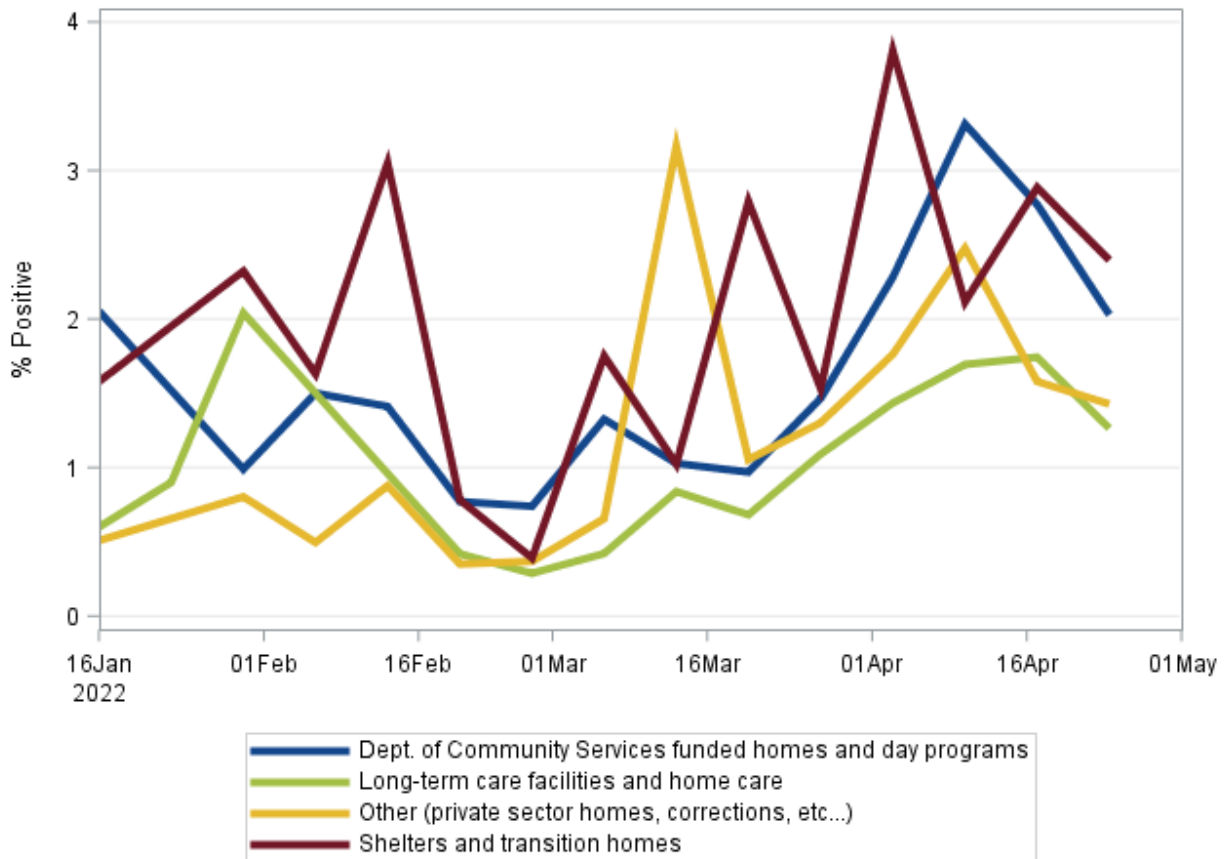
Vaccination Status	Number	Crude Rate per 100k Person-Years	Age-Adjusted Rate per 100k Person-Years	Risk Reduction (Relative to Unvaccinated/1 Dose)
Hospitalizations				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	265	204.9	1363.0	N/A
2 Doses	348	110.1	206.2	84.9%
3+ Doses	467	258.5	211.9	84.5%
Deaths				
Unvaccinated/1 Dose	56	43.3	379.6	N/A
2 Doses	99	31.3	66.1	82.6%
3+ Doses	69	38.2	26.8	92.9%

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 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	37,556	43,734
% Hospitalized	5.3%	2.1%	6.3%	3.1%	1.4%	1.2%
% 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:
 - 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 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	783	1,580	2,679
Number of long-term care resident COVID-19 deaths	57	0	1	4	22	36	120
Case fatality rate	21.7%	0.0%	14.3%	9.3%	2.8%	2.3%	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-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>