

## DAILY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

# COVID-19 in Ontario: January 15, 2020 to February 26, 2022

Due to changes in the Ministry of Health's <u>updated guidance on testing and case</u>, <u>contact and outbreak management</u>, case counts in this report are an underestimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 in Ontario. In addition, data for hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) admission and deaths in the most recent reporting period should be interpreted with caution due to data entry and reporting lags.

#### Introduction

This report includes the most current information available from CCM as of February 26, 2022.

A <u>weekly summary report</u> is available with additional information to complement the daily report.

Please visit the interactive Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool to explore recent COVID-19 data by public health unit, age group, sex, and trends over time. For more information about whole genome sequencing, please see the SARS COV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing in Ontario report.

This **daily** report provides an epidemiologic summary of recent COVID-19 activity in Ontario. The change in cases is determined by taking the cumulative difference between the current day and the previous day.

In this document, the term 'change in cases' refers to cases publicly reported by the province for a given day. Data corrections or updates can result in case records being removed and or updated from past reports and may result in subset totals for updated case counts (i.e., age group, sex) differing from the overall updated case counts.

The term public health unit reported date in this document refers to the date local public health units were first notified of the case.

## **Highlights**

- There are a total of 1,100,696 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario reported to date.
- Compared to the previous day, this represents:
  - An increase of 2,001 confirmed cases (percent change of -14.4%)
  - An increase of 9\* deaths (percent change of -71.0%)
  - An increase of 2,081 resolved cases (percent change of -3.3%)

#### **Case Characteristics**

Table 1a. Summary of recent confirmed cases of COVID-19: Ontario

	Change in cases February 25, 2022	Change in cases February 26, 2022	Percentage change February 26, 2022 compared to February 25, 2022	Cumulative case count as of February 26, 2022
Total number of cases	2,338	2,001	-14.4%	1,100,696
Number of deaths	31	9	-71.0%	12,430*
Number resolved	2,153	2,081	-3.3%	1,069,795

**Note:** The number of cases publicly reported by the province each day may not align with case counts reported to public health on a given day; public health unit reported date refers to the date local public health was first notified of the case. Data corrections or updates can result in case records being removed and or updated from past reports. The number of deaths presented in the change in cases column for each day only includes deaths that occurred in the last 30 days.

<sup>\*</sup> This number only includes deaths that have occurred in the last month. In addition, 1 death was added to the cumulative count based on data cleaning.

<sup>\*1</sup> death was added to the cumulative total based on data cleaning.

Table 1b. Summary of recent confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group and sex: Ontario

	Change in cases February 25, 2022	Change in cases February 26, 2022	Cumulative case count as of February 26, 2022
Sex: Male	943	883	523,860
Sex: Female	1,339	1,069	570,275
Ages: 0-4	68	71	32,817
Ages: 5-11	166	139	66,168
Ages: 12-19	282	187	94,338
Ages: 20-39	802	652	421,597
Ages: 40-59	684	605	305,259
Ages: 60-79	243	234	132,676
Ages: 80 and over	95	109	47,470

**Note:** Not all cases have an age or sex reported. Data corrections or updates can result in case records being removed and or updated from past reports and may result in subset totals (i.e., age group, sex) differing from past publicly reported case counts.

Data Source: CCM

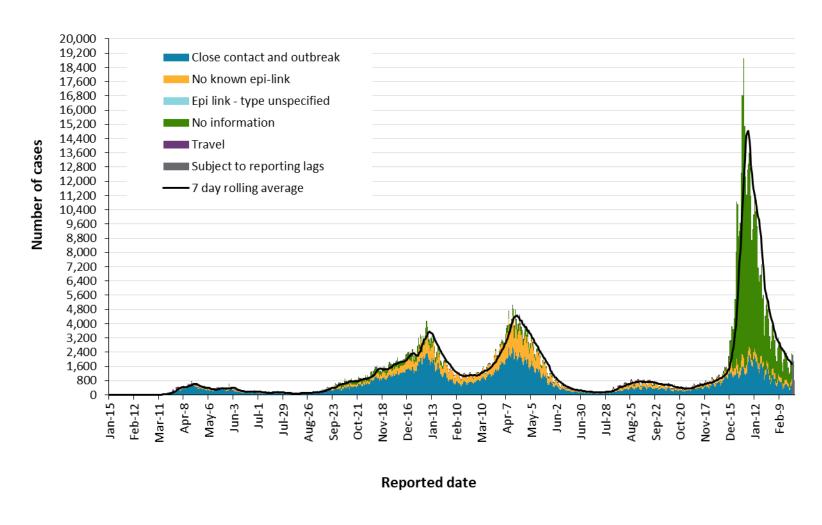
Table 2. Summary of recent confirmed cases of COVID-19 in long-term care homes: Ontario

Long-term care home cases	Change in cases February 25, 2022	Change in cases February 26, 2022	Cumulative case count as of February 26, 2022
Residents	37	62	24,584
Health care workers	75	33	11,362
Deaths among residents	9	4	4,476
Deaths among health care workers	0	0	10

**Note:** Information on how long-term care home residents and health care workers are identified is available in the <u>technical notes</u>. Also, the change in cases in these categories may represent existing case records that have been updated.

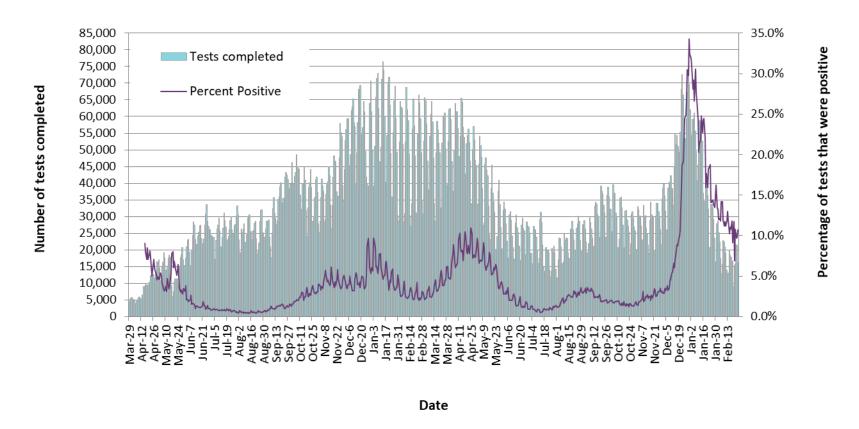
#### Time

Figure 1. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 by likely acquisition and public health unit reported date: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to February 26, 2022



**Note:** Changes in testing eligibility went into effect on December 31, 2021, limiting access to testing and resulting in a change in the population being tested. **Data Source:** CCM

Figure 2. Number of COVID-19 tests completed and percent positivity: Ontario, March 29, 2020 to February 25, 2022

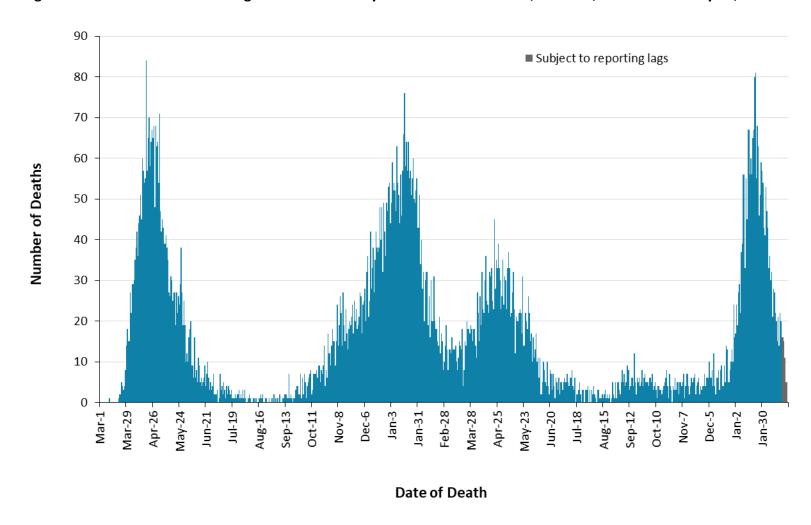


**Note:** The number of tests performed does not reflect the number of specimens or persons tested. More than one test may be performed per specimen or per person. As such, the percentage of tests that were positive does not necessarily translate to the number of specimens or persons testing positive. Changes in testing eligibility went into effect on December 31, 2021, limiting access to testing and resulting in a change in the population being tested.

Data Source: The Provincial COVID-19 Diagnostics Network, data reported by member microbiology laboratories.

## Severity

Figure 3. Confirmed deaths among COVID-19 cases by date of death: Ontario, March 1, 2020 to February 26, 2022



Note: Cases without a death date are not included in the figure.

Data Source: CCM

COVID-19 in Ontario: January 15, 2020 to February 26, 2022

Table 3. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 by severity: Ontario

	Cumulative case count as of February 26, 2022	Percentage of all cases
Cumulative deaths reported (please note there may be a reporting delay for deaths)	12,430	1.1%
Deaths reported in ages: 19 and under	13	<0.1%
Deaths reported in ages: 20-39	140	<0.1%
Deaths reported in ages: 40-59	890	0.3%
Deaths reported in ages: 60-79	4,130	3.1%
Deaths reported in ages: 80 and over	7,255	15.3%
Ever in ICU	7,749	0.7%
Ever hospitalized	41,953	3.8%

**Note:** Not all cases have an age reported. Data corrections or updates can result in case records being removed and/or updated and may result in totals differing from past publicly reported case counts. Percentage of deaths reported for each age group is calculated using all cases in the age group as the denominator.

# Geography

Table 4. Summary of recent confirmed cases of COVID-19 by public health unit and region: Ontario

Public Health Unit Name	Change in cases February 25, 2022	Change in cases February 26, 2022	Cumulative case count	Cumulative rate per 100,000 population
Northwestern Health Unit	76	47	4,839	5,960.5
Thunder Bay District Health Unit	62	46	8,658	5,490.0
TOTAL NORTH WEST	138	93	13,497	5,649.9
Algoma Public Health	50	58	5,075	4,306.7
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit	39	29	3,751	2,900.8
Porcupine Health Unit	51	41	5,469	6,434.1
Public Health Sudbury & Districts	111	90	11,081	5,398.6
Timiskaming Health Unit	5	3	1,140	3,364.3
TOTAL NORTH EAST	256	221	26,516	4,641.4
Ottawa Public Health	136	161	62,599	6,001.1
Eastern Ontario Health Unit	30	36	13,607	6,303.7
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health	47	28	6,906	3,995.8
Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health	72	71	10,141	4,846.8
Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit	25	28	6,721	3,735.0
Renfrew County and District Health Unit	18	12	3,333	3,072.6
TOTAL EASTERN	328	336	103,307	5,354.2

Public Health Unit Name	Change in cases February 25, 2022	Change in cases February 26, 2022	Cumulative case count	Cumulative rate per 100,000 population
Durham Region Health Department	99	88	52,903	7,436.2
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit	34	12	7,042	3,692.2
Peel Public Health	187	163	171,924	10,995.1
Peterborough Public Health	20	21	5,585	3,770.6
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	129	107	35,303	5,839.9
York Region Public Health	93	133	98,037	8,168.0
TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	562	524	370,794	8,391.5
Toronto Public Health	345	273	278,069	9,304.9
TOTAL TORONTO	345	273	278,069	9,304.9
Chatham-Kent Public Health	32	13	6,825	6,401.2
Grey Bruce Health Unit	33	25	6,221	3,531.6
Huron Perth Public Health	12	11	5,677	3,881.9
Lambton Public Health	37	16	9,701	7,295.5
Middlesex-London Health Unit	70	51	31,649	6,198.3
Southwestern Public Health	38	17	11,141	5,089.4
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit	87	108	37,113	8,612.0
TOTAL SOUTH WEST	309	241	108,327	6,289.1
Brant County Health Unit	19	19	9,845	6,411.3
City of Hamilton Public Health Services	82	75	48,307	8,304.1
Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit	15	19	7,013	5,843.8

Public Health Unit Name	Change in cases February 25, 2022	Change in cases February 26, 2022	Cumulative case count	Cumulative rate per 100,000 population
Halton Region Public Health	71	69	42,225	6,915.6
Niagara Region Public Health	94	62	33,995	7,056.9
Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services	74	38	40,413	6,677.3
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health	45	31	18,388	5,893.7
TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	400	313	200,186	6,987.7
TOTAL ONTARIO	2,338	2,001	1,100,696	7,470.4

**Notes:** Health units with data corrections or updates could result in records being removed from totals, leading to negative or zero counts.

Data Source: CCM

## **Outbreaks**

Table 5. Summary of recent confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes, retirement homes and hospitals by status: Ontario

Institution type	Change in outbreaks February 25, 2022	Change in outbreaks February 26, 2022	Number of ongoing outbreaks	Cumulative number of outbreaks reported
Long-term care homes	2	2	76	2,143
Retirement homes	-1	1	61	1,447
Hospitals	6	5	37	1,139

**Note:** Ongoing outbreaks are those that are reported in CCM as 'Open' and without a 'Declared Over Date' recorded. The start of the outbreak is determined by the onset date of first case, or if missing the outbreak reported date, or else if that is also missing, then the outbreak created date.

#### **Technical Notes**

#### **Data Sources**

- The data for this report were based on information successfully extracted from the Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM) for all PHUs by PHO as of **February 26, 2022 at 1 p.m**. for cases reported from May 1, 2021 onwards and as of **February 24, 2022 at 9 a.m.** for cases reported up to April 30, 2021.
- CCM is a dynamic disease reporting system, which allows ongoing updates to data previously entered. As a result, data extracted from CCM represent a snapshot at the time of extraction and may differ from previous or subsequent reports.
- Ontario population estimate data were sourced from Statistics Canada. Population estimates 2001-2020: Table 1 annual population estimates by age and sex for July 1, 2001 to 2020, health regions, Ontario [unpublished data table]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2021 [received April 22, 2021].
- COVID-19 test data were based on information from The Provincial COVID-19 Diagnostics Network, reported by member microbiology laboratories.

#### **Data Caveats**

- Due to changes in the availability of testing, driven by increasing COVID-19 cases related to the Omicron variant, case counts in this report are an underestimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 in Ontario. As such, data should be interpreted with caution.
- The data only represent cases reported to public health units and recorded in CCM. As a result, all counts will be subject to varying degrees of underreporting due to a variety of factors, such as disease awareness and medical care seeking behaviours, which may depend on severity of illness, clinical practice, changes in laboratory testing, and reporting behaviours.
- Data cleaning for older cases is incorporated on Mondays and Thursdays and may impact the case count published on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Lags in CCM data entry due to weekend staffing may result in lower case counts than would otherwise be recorded.
- Only cases meeting the confirmed case classification as listed in the <u>MOH Case Definition</u> –
   Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) document are included in the report counts from CCM.
- Cases of confirmed reinfection, as defined in the provincial case definitions, are counted as unique investigations.
- Case classification information may be updated for individuals with a positive result issued from a point-of-care assays.
- The number of tests performed does not reflect the number of specimens or persons tested. More than one test may be performed per specimen or per person. As such, the percentage of tests that were positive does not necessarily translate to the number of specimens or persons testing positive.
- Reported date is the date the case was reported to the public health unit.

- Resolved cases are determined only for COVID-19 cases that have not died. Cases that have died
  are considered fatal and not resolved. The following cases are classified as resolved:
  - Cases that are reported as 'recovered' in CCM based on local public health unit assessment
  - Cases that are not hospitalized and are 14 days past their symptom onset date or specimen collection date (where symptom onset date is not known)
  - Cases that are currently hospitalized (no hospital end date entered) and have a status of 'closed' in CCM (indicating public health unit follow-up is complete) and are 14 days past their symptom onset date or specimen collection date
- Hospitalization includes all cases hospitalized (or that had their hospital stay extended) because
  of COVID-19. It includes cases that have been discharged from hospital as well as cases that are
  currently hospitalized. Includes Intensive Care Unit (ICU) cases but not emergency room visits.
  Hospitalizations were identified by a reported hospital admission date or reported 'Yes' for
  hospitalization/ICU
- ICU admission includes all cases for which an ICU admission date was reported at the time of data extraction. It is a subset of the count of hospitalized cases. It includes cases that have been treated or that are currently being treated in an ICU.
- Orientation of case counts by geography is based on the permanent health unit. This is
  equivalent to the diagnosing health unit (DHU) in iPHIS. DHU refers to the case's public health
  unit of residence at the time of illness onset and not necessarily the location of exposure. Cases
  for which the DHU was reported as MOH-PHO (to signify a case that is not a resident of Ontario)
  have been excluded from the analyses.
- Male/Female information presented in this report are sourced from the Sex field in CCM and are
  intended to represent sex assigned at birth. On October 14, 2021 changes were made in CCM to
  enable reporting on the Sex field where these data are supplemented by archived Male/Female
  information previously entered in the Gender field.
- Likely source of acquisition is determined by examining the epidemiologic link and epidemiologic link status fields in CCM. If no epidemiologic link is identified in those fields the risk factor fields are examined to determine whether a case travelled, was associated with a confirmed outbreak, was a contact of a case, had no known epidemiological link (sporadic community transmission) or was reported to have an unknown source/no information was reported. Some cases may have no information reported if the case is untraceable, was lost to follow-up or referred to FNIHB. Cases with multiple risk factors were assigned to a single likely acquisition source group which was determined hierarchically in the following order:
  - For cases with an episode date on or after April 1, 2020: Outbreak-associated > close contact of a confirmed case > travel > no known epidemiological link > information missing or unknown
  - For cases with an episode date before April 1, 2020: Travel > outbreak-associated > close contact of a confirmed case > no known epidemiological link > information missing or unknown
  - Case episode date represents an estimate of disease onset. This date is calculated based on the earliest date of symptom onset, specimen collection/test date, or the date reported to the public health unit

- Deaths are determined by using the outcome field in CCM. Any case marked 'Fatal' is included in the deaths data. The CCM field Type of Death is not used to further categorize the data.
  - If the date of death is missing the outcome date field is used as a proxy for cases marked as 'Fatal' in the outcome field.
- COVID-19 cases from CCM for which the Classification and/or Disposition was reported as ENTERED IN ERROR, DOES NOT MEET DEFINITION, IGNORE, DUPLICATE or any variation on these values have been excluded. The provincial case count for COVID-19 may include some duplicate records, if these records were not identified and resolved.
- Ongoing outbreaks are those that are reported in CCM as 'Open' and without a 'Declared Over Date' recorded. Closed outbreaks are 'Closed' or have a 'Declared Over Date' recorded in CCM or where the outbreak start date (determined by the onset date of first case, or if missing the reported date, or if missing the created date) is more than 5 months from the current date, even for outbreaks where the outbreak status value selected in CCM is 'OPEN'.
- 'Long-term care home residents' includes cases that reported 'Yes' to the risk factor 'Resident of a long-term care home'; or 'Yes' to the risk factor 'Resident of nursing home or other chronic care facility' and reported to be part of an outbreak assigned as a long-term care home (via the Outbreak number or case comments field); or were reported to be part of an outbreak assigned as a long-term care home (via the outbreak number or case comments field) with an age over 70 years and did not report 'No' to the risk factors 'Resident of long-term care home' or 'Resident of nursing home or other chronic care facility'. 'Long-term care home residents' excludes cases that reported 'Yes' to any of the health care worker occupational risk factors.
- The 'health care workers' variable includes cases that reported 'Yes' to any of the occupation of health care worker, doctor, nurse, dentist, dental hygienist, midwife, other medical technicians, personal support worker, respiratory therapist, first responder.
- 'Health care workers associated with long-term care outbreaks' includes 'health care workers'
  reported to be part of an outbreak assigned as a long-term care home (via the outbreak number
  or case comments field). Excludes cases that reported 'Yes' to risk factors 'Resident of long-term
  care home' or 'Resident of nursing home or other chronic care facility' and 'Yes' to the
  calculated 'health care workers' variable.
- Percent change is calculated by taking the difference between the current period (i.e., daily count or sum of the daily count over a 7-day period) and previous period (i.e., daily count or sum of the daily count over a 7-day period), divided by the previous period.

## Appendix A

Table A1. Weekly rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population over recent rolling 7-day periods, by reported date and public health unit: Ontario, February 11, 2022 to February 23, 2022

Public Health Unit Name	Feb 11 to Feb 17	Feb 12 to Feb 18	Feb 13 to Feb 19	Feb 14 to Feb 20	Feb 15 to Feb 21	Feb 16 to Feb 22	Feb 17 to Feb 23	% change from Feb 11 – Feb 17 to Feb 17 – Feb 23
NORTH WEST								
Northwestern Health Unit	526.0	492.7	492.7	490.2	445.9	492.7	507.5	-3.5%
Thunder Bay District Health Unit	320.2	299.9	321.5	325.9	311.3	327.2	310.1	-3.2%
NORTH EAST								
Algoma Public Health	286.0	286.8	305.5	322.5	314.8	312.3	319.9	+11.9%
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit	174.8	178.6	180.2	198.8	184.1	202.6	204.9	+17.2%
Porcupine Health Unit	407.1	397.6	416.5	409.4	398.8	375.3	375.3	-7.8%
Public Health Sudbury & Districts	207.5	181.7	177.8	192.9	192.4	220.7	226.5	+9.2%
Timiskaming Health Unit	100.3	76.7	73.8	73.8	64.9	70.8	59.0	-41.2%
EASTERN								
Ottawa Public Health	108.2	109.2	107.5	105.0	95.8	89.8	85.4	-21.1%
Eastern Ontario Health Unit	102.8	101.0	97.7	92.2	86.6	76.4	79.7	-22.5%
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health	164.9	159.1	158.5	158.0	141.8	145.8	153.3	-7.0%

Public Health Unit Name	Feb 11 to Feb 17	Feb 12 to Feb 18	Feb 13 to Feb 19	Feb 14 to Feb 20	Feb 15 to Feb 21	Feb 16 to Feb 22	Feb 17 to Feb 23	% change from Feb 11 – Feb 17 to Feb 17 – Feb 23
Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health	184.5	190.7	200.3	193.6	185.9	181.6	200.3	+8.6%
Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit	136.2	130.6	132.3	138.4	123.9	116.1	127.3	-6.5%
Renfrew County and District Health Unit	98.6	103.3	88.5	84.8	75.6	73.8	81.1	-17.7%
CENTRAL EAST								
Durham Region Health Department	81.0	80.8	76.5	76.6	76.2	72.1	75.2	-7.2%
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit	114.3	111.7	113.3	109.1	106.4	90.7	86.0	-24.8%
Peel Public Health	62.5	56.2	54.2	53.5	49.0	47.8	45.0	-28.0%
Peterborough Public Health	105.3	102.6	104.6	96.5	94.5	94.5	106.7	+1.3%
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	134.5	117.8	115.5	115.6	100.1	87.7	89.7	-33.3%
York Region Public Health	56.3	55.2	50.7	51.4	48.7	44.6	46.5	-17.4%
TORONTO								
Toronto Public Health	65.7	61.0	59.7	59.5	57.7	53.9	54.8	-16.6%
SOUTH WEST								
Chatham-Kent Public Health	183.8	159.4	163.2	156.6	136.0	128.5	126.6	-31.1%
Grey Bruce Health Unit	122.6	119.8	119.2	113.0	99.3	90.3	90.3	-26.3%

Public Health Unit Name	Feb 11 to Feb 17	Feb 12 to Feb 18	Feb 13 to Feb 19	Feb 14 to Feb 20	Feb 15 to Feb 21	Feb 16 to Feb 22	Feb 17 to Feb 23	% change from Feb 11 – Feb 17 to Feb 17 – Feb 23
Huron Perth Public Health	92.3	79.3	85.5	82.7	80.0	69.7	66.3	-28.2%
Lambton Public Health	145.9	139.9	134.6	127.8	124.8	133.1	90.2	-38.2%
Middlesex-London Health Unit	115.7	100.9	93.2	93.8	88.3	84.4	80.1	-30.8%
Southwestern Public Health	95.9	85.9	80.9	81.3	79.5	75.8	78.1	-18.6%
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit	126.5	129.7	122.3	116.0	117.2	100.7	117.0	-7.5%
CENTRAL WEST								
Brant County Health Unit	90.5	80.8	74.9	74.2	69.0	62.5	60.6	-33.0%
City of Hamilton Public Health Services	85.1	82.2	80.1	77.5	71.9	69.1	67.0	-21.3%
Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit	117.5	107.5	100.0	102.5	105.8	101.7	104.2	-11.3%
Halton Region Public Health	66.5	61.6	53.9	52.6	49.3	48.6	50.6	-23.9%
Niagara Region Public Health	120.0	116.0	113.5	107.1	100.9	95.9	98.4	-18.0%
Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services	75.5	68.6	67.6	65.9	68.2	63.0	62.0	-17.9%
Wellington- Dufferin-Guelph Public Health	73.1	69.9	69.2	67.0	62.8	60.3	67.3	-7.9%
TOTAL ONTARIO	99.0	93.8	91.8	91.0	86.1	82.6	83.4	-15.8%

**Note:** Rates are based on the sum of the daily case counts during the date ranges specified in each column.

Table A2. Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases with a fatal outcome by date of death in the last 30 days: Ontario

Date of Death	Number of deaths
January 28, 2022	51
January 29, 2022	59
January 30, 2022	57
January 31, 2022	54
February 1, 2022	43
February 2, 2022	41
February 3, 2022	53
February 4, 2022	47
February 5, 2022	43
February 6, 2022	33
February 7, 2022	36
February 8, 2022	30
February 9, 2022	32
February 10, 2022	21
February 11, 2022	28
February 12, 2022	27
February 13, 2022	22
February 14, 2022	20
February 15, 2022	15
February 16, 2022	21
February 17, 2022	14
February 18, 2022	22

Date of Death	Number of deaths
February 19, 2022	20
February 20, 2022	16*
February 21, 2022	16*
February 22, 2022	15*
February 23, 2022	11*
February 24, 2022	5*
February 25, 2022	5*
February 26, 2022	0*

**Note:** Cases without a death date are not included in the table.

<sup>\*</sup>Subject to reporting lags

#### Citation

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