


COVID-19 INFECTION AMONG ONTARIO WORKERS

BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2020 AND DECEMBER 2021



This study identified **~59,000 COVID-19** infections by PCR testing

Key Insights

- The risk of COVID-19 among Ontario workers varies by occupation. Identifying groups with the highest risks can provide a better understanding of where prevention efforts are needed to reduce disease transmission.
- The risk of COVID-19 varies by region. Workers living in densely populated regions had a higher risk of COVID-19 infection, which may reflect background community risks.

Occupations with higher risk of COVID-19 infection *in comparison to other occupations*



Air Transport Workers



Medical Lab Technicians/Technologists



Nurses



Textile Fabrication Workers



Food and Beverage Processing Workers



Personal Services Workers



Emergency Services Workers



Janitors and Cleaners



Higher risk of COVID-19 infection may be due to indoor, in-person operations, with close physical proximity and frequent contact with others.



Lower risk of COVID-19 infection may be due to outdoor work, well-ventilated environments, use of respiratory protection, and minimal physical proximity and contact with others (e.g. remote work).

Risk of COVID-19 infection by workers' region of residence *in comparison to workers living in other regions*

Workers living in **Toronto:**



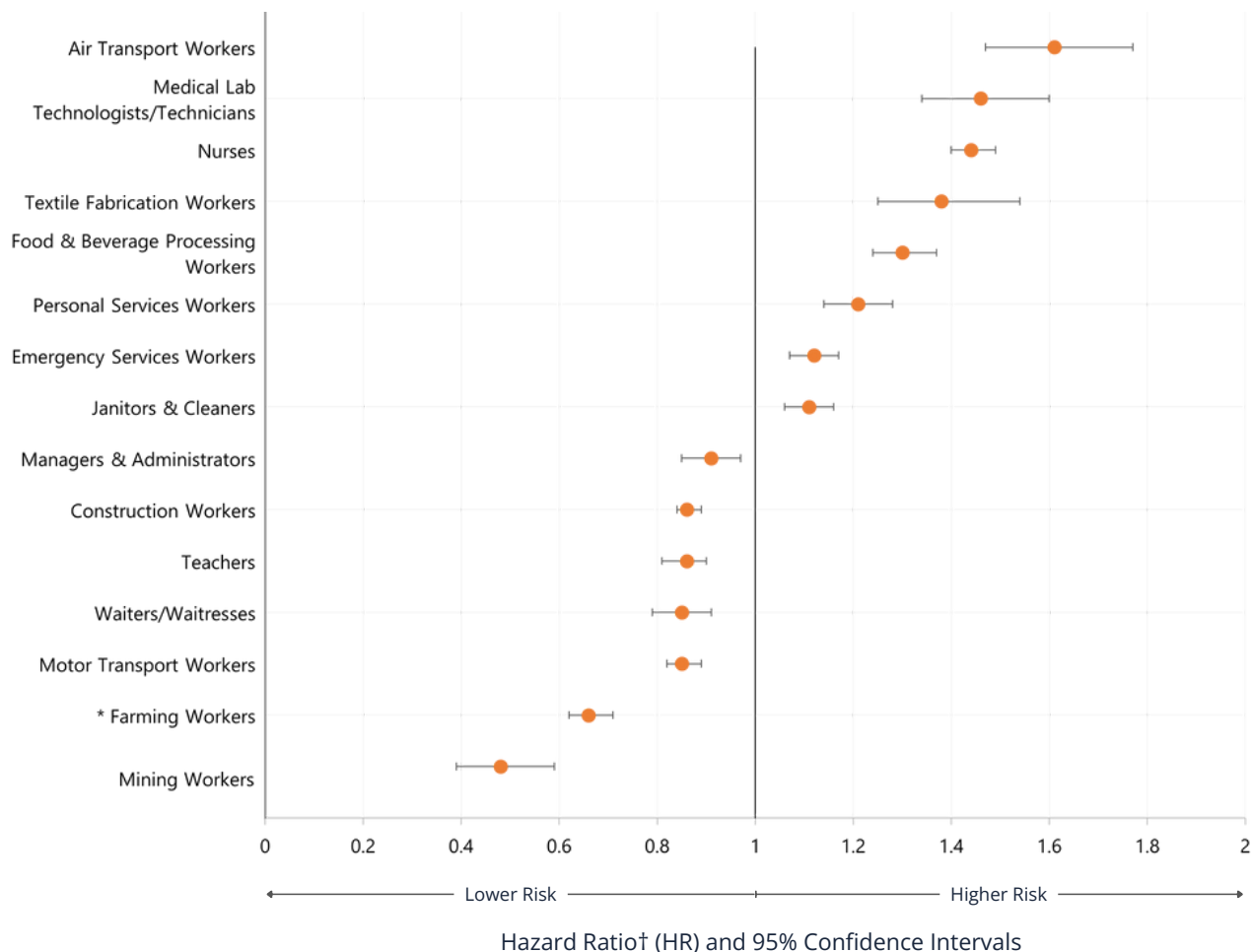
1.9 times the risk of COVID-19 infection

Workers living in the **Central East Region (Durham, Peel, and York):**



1.4 times the risk of COVID-19 infection

Risk of COVID-19 infection by occupation in comparison to other occupations



About the Data

This fact sheet summarizes the risks of COVID-19 infection among workers in the Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS) by occupation and region, in comparison to all other workers in the ODSS.

For more information on the project, visit:

www.odsp-ocrc.ca/covid/

* Risk estimates among farming workers may not fully capture COVID-19 infections among migrant workers.

† The hazard ratio (HR) is a measure used to compare the risk of an event (e.g. COVID-19 infection) in one group (Group A) compared to another group (Group B). If the risk of COVID-19 infection is higher in Group A than Group B, the hazard ratio will be above 1; if the risk is lower in Group A than Group B, the hazard ratio will be below 1; and if the risk is approximately equal in Group A and B, then the hazard ratio will equal 1.

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