

SEVERE COVID-19 RISK AMONG ONTARIO WORKERS

BASED ON HOSPITAL RECORDS BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2020 AND DECEMBER 2021

Key Insights

- The risk of severe COVID-19 was identified through hospitalizations and emergency department visits among Ontario workers. Identifying workers with the highest risk of being hospitalized for COVID-19 can provide a better understanding of where prevention efforts are needed to reduce disease transmission.
- The risk of severe COVID-19 varies by region. Workers living in densely populated regions of Ontario had higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection, which may reflect background community risks.



This study identified
**~10,300 COVID-19
infections**
through hospital records

Occupations with higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection

in comparison to other occupations



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, or minimal physical proximity and contact with others (e.g. remote work).



Air
Transport
Workers



Textile
Fabrication
Workers



Food and Beverage
Processing
Workers



Nurses



Personal
Services
Workers



Medical Lab
Technicians/
Technologists



Janitors
and
Cleaners

Residential regions with higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection

in comparison to workers living in other regions

Workers living
in **Toronto**:



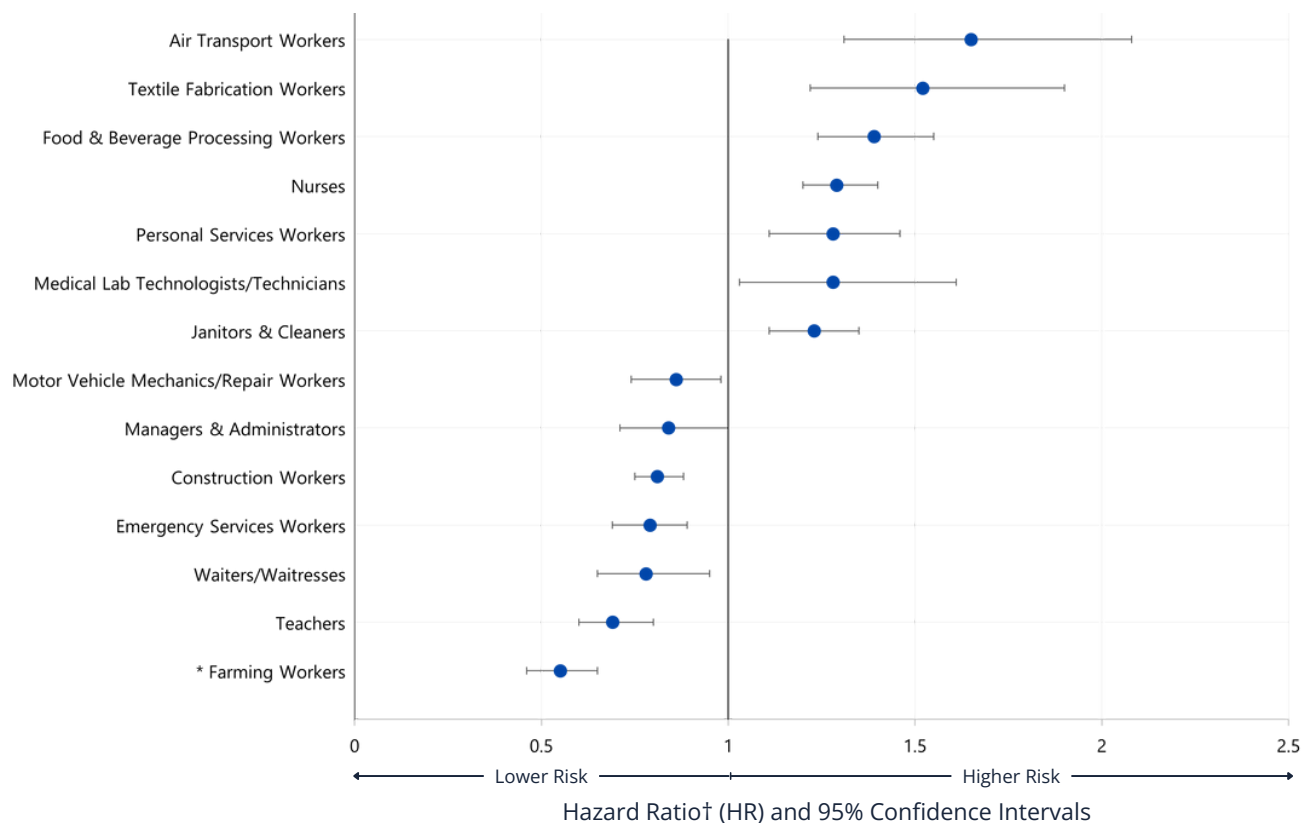
2 times the risk
of COVID-19 infection

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



1.9 times the risk
of COVID-19 infection

Risk of severe COVID-19 infection by occupation compared to other occupations



About the Data

This fact sheet summarizes the risk of severe COVID-19 infection among workers in the Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS) based on hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Workers in each group (e.g. occupation) are compared to all other workers in the ODSS.

For more information on the project, visit:

www.occupationalcancer.ca/project/covid-19-surveillance/

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

† The hazard ratio (HR) is a measure used to compare the risk of an event (e.g. severe COVID-19 infection) in one group (Group A) compared to another group (Group B). If the risk of severe 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 the 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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