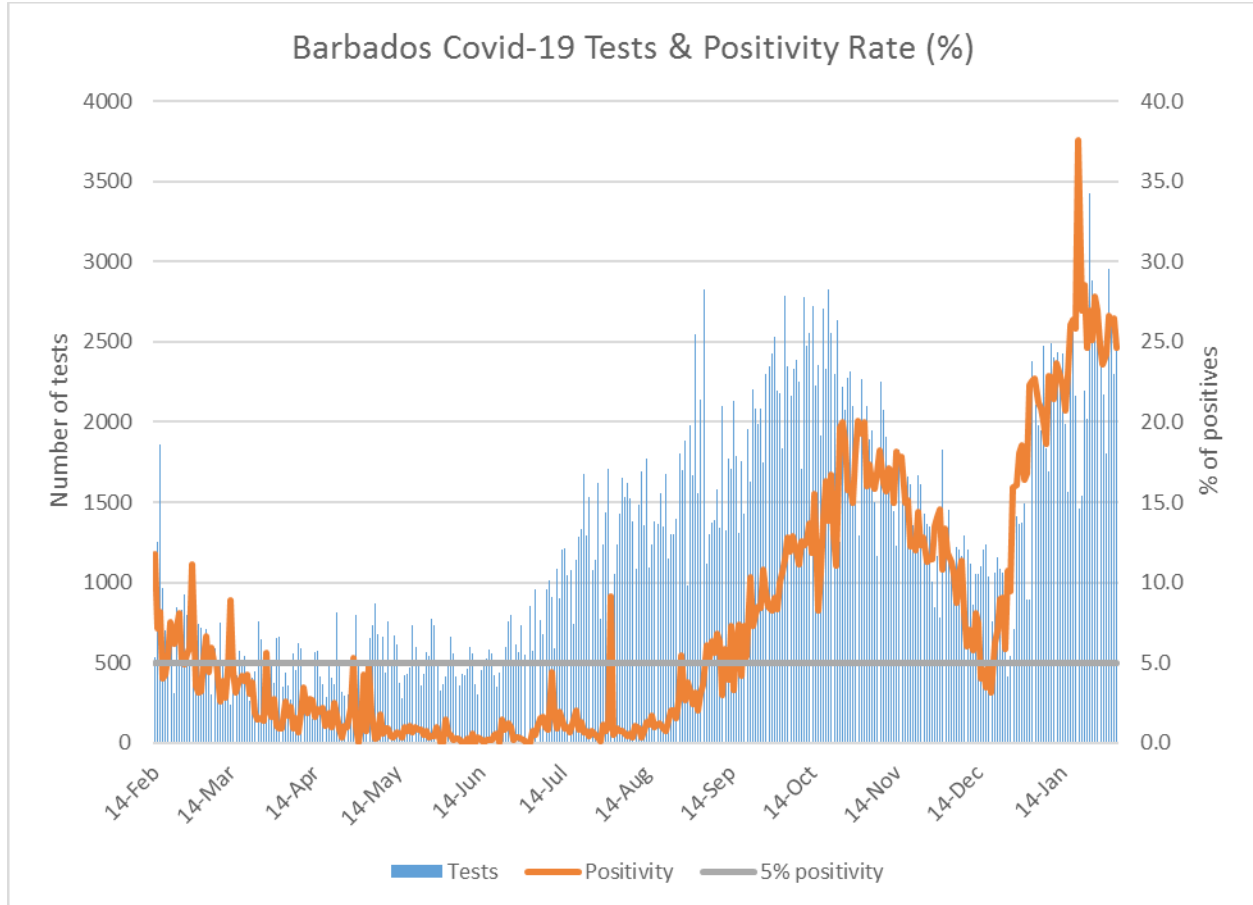


The Current Surge in Barbados' Covid-positive Cases is More Severe Than the Previous Wave



The chart above shows the number of tests daily, and the percentage of positive cases, since February of last year. Also shown on the chart is the five percent of level of positive cases, which was earlier announced as the level below which it was hoped Covid-positives could be contained.

The chart shows a persistent rise in daily tests, beginning in late July, when the number of tests was less than 1,000 per day, to a peak of over 2,500 on several days in late August, and in September and October. The percentage of positive cases rose above five percent of tests early in September, to a peak of 20 percent in late October.

The number of daily tests and the percentage of positive cases fell all through November and early December, to a low in mid-December. By December 19 the ratio of positive cases had fallen to three percent of tests.

However, the beginning of the winter tourist season brought with it a rapid surge in tests and in positive cases, which has pushed the ratio of positive cases to 25 percent or higher every day since mid-January (except for some Sundays, when the number of tests is often low). The current every day surge remains deadlier than for the September-October surge at its peak, by five percentage points or more.



R. DeLisle Worrell, February 12, 2022