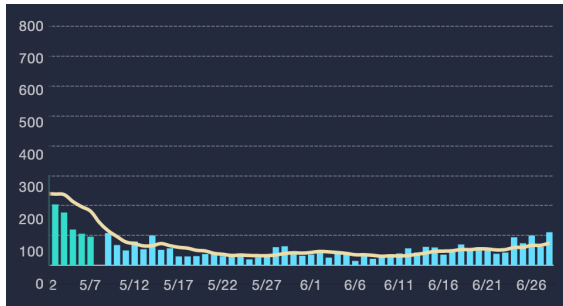


# Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

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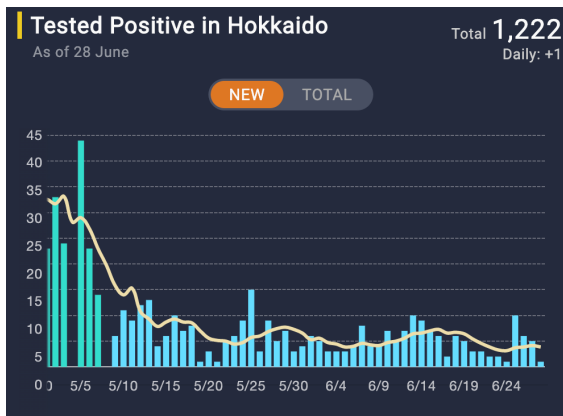
## Current Situation in Japan

(National number of new diagnoses)

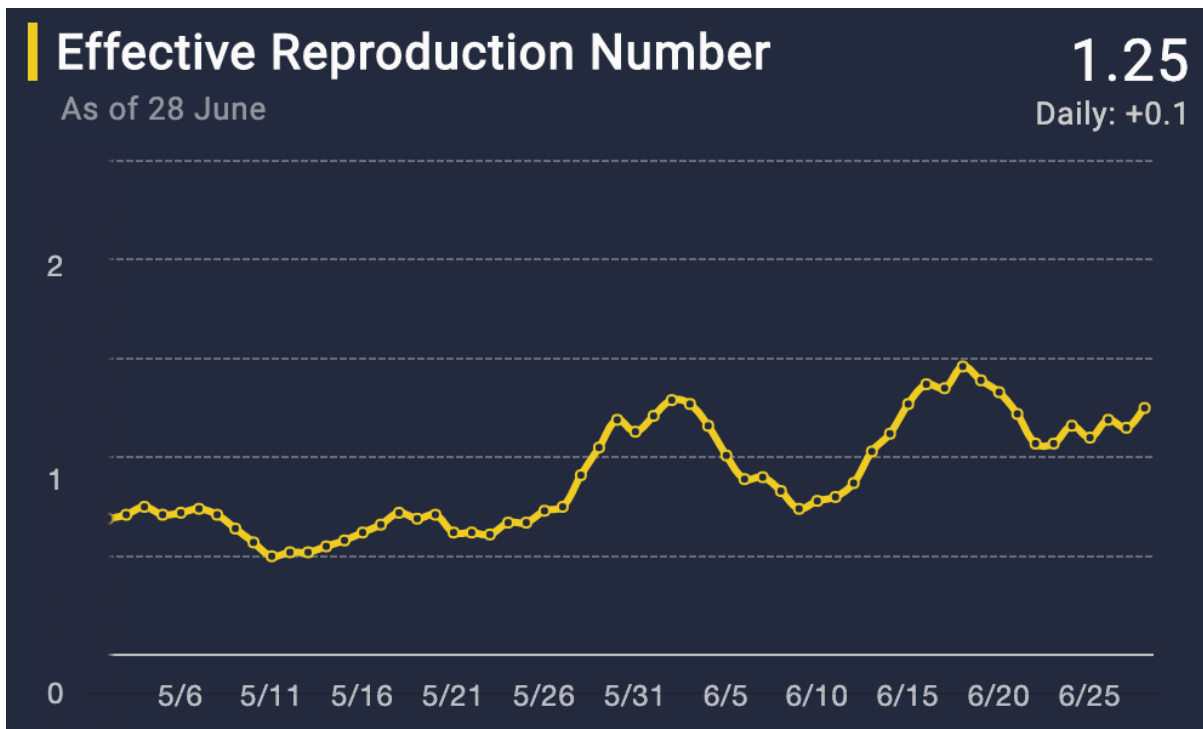


National case numbers remain low with new infections occurring disproportionately in Tokyo and the Kanto region. Three prefectures bordering Tokyo (Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa) have all seen an increase in case numbers over the past week.

Across the remainder of Japan numbers of new infections remain extremely low with most prefectures averaging fewer than one new case per day. Hokkaido continues to see relatively higher numbers of cases, though without any significant increase.



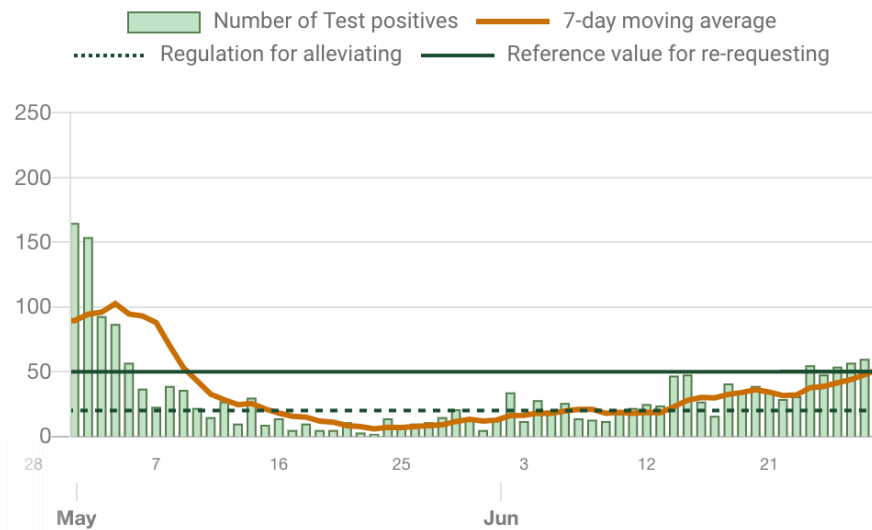
There is some concern that recent government backed schemes to promote domestic tourism, combined with removal of restrictions on travel out of Tokyo may result in additional spread of infection. The ongoing disease burden in the capital has the potential to re-seed COVID19 into rural areas over the summer period.



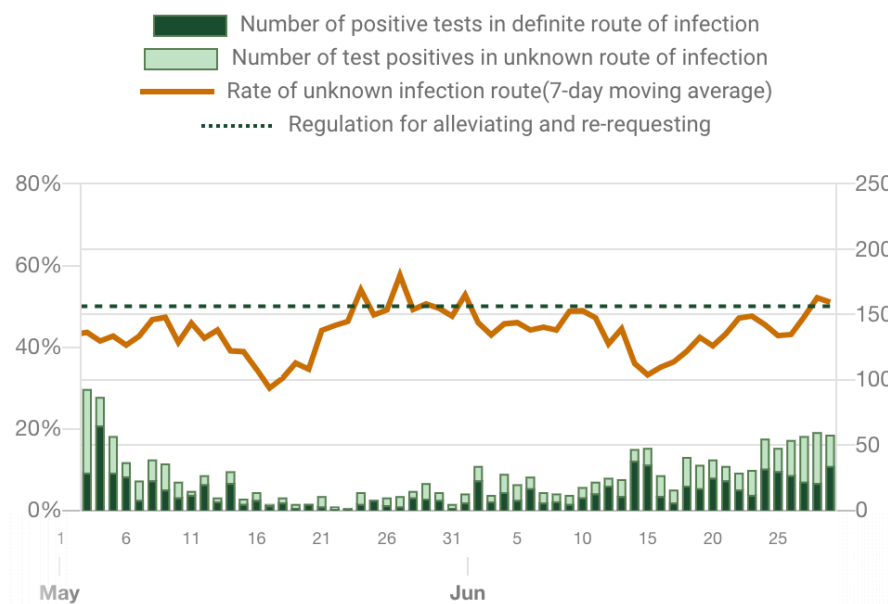
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## Current Situation in Tokyo

The gradual increase in identified infections has continued. In the seven days from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 363 new diagnoses of COVID19 were made, in comparison to 221 in the seven days immediately before, representing a 64% increase. The one-week average is now marginally over 50 cases per day, taking the number of new infections above the threshold at which new emergency measures might be requested:

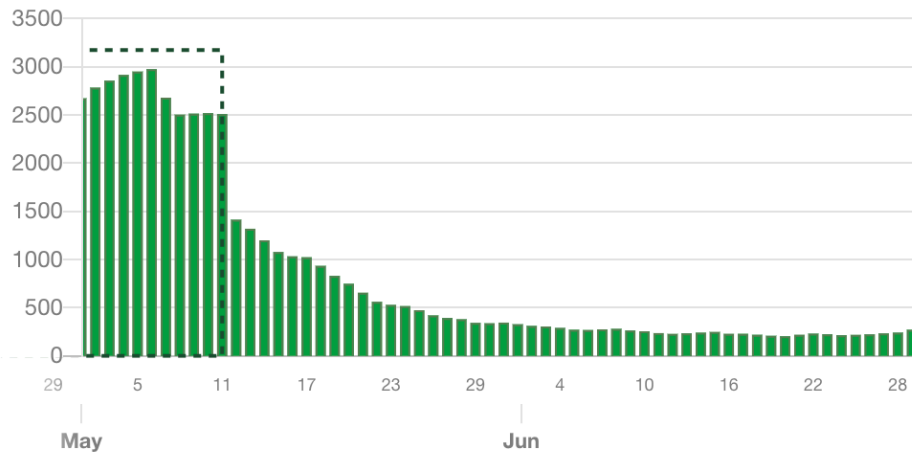


As before, Kabuki-cho nightlife venues are disproportionately contributing to the rate of new infections with 31 of the 54 new infections reported on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June occurring in staff from this area. There is also some evidence of increasing spread within the wider community, with the proportion of new cases of undetected origin trending up to slightly above 50%:

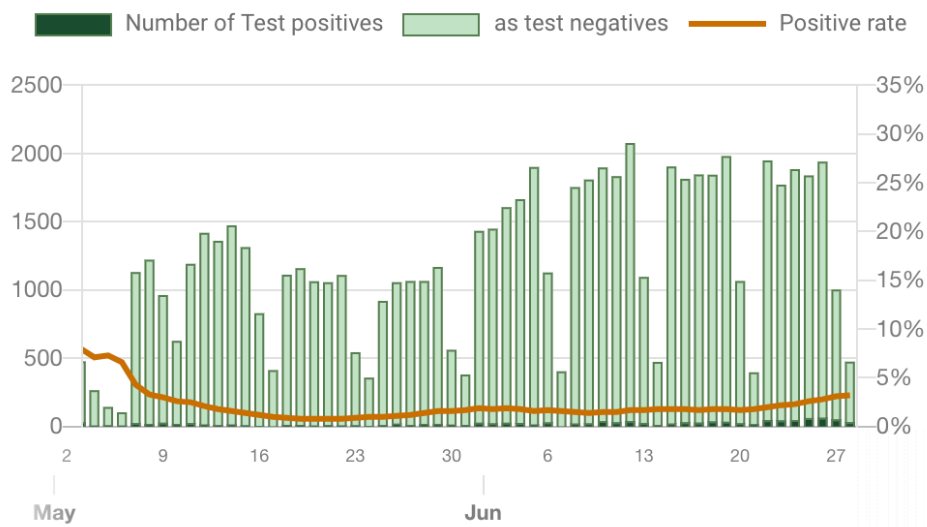


## Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

Hospital space allocated to COVID19 patients remains largely unused in Tokyo, with under 10% bed occupancy. However, the number of hospitalized patients has increased marginally over the past ten days, rising from a nadir of 204 to 272 patients reported hospitalized as of yesterday:



PCR test capacity has increased substantially as compared to earlier in the year and access to testing no longer appears to be a problem. The volume of tests performed is relatively stable, with a gradually increasing rate of positive results reported. In late May, fewer than 1% of COVID19 tests were positive, this proportion now having risen to a little over 3%:



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### ***International Travel to and from Japan***

Travel out of the country for foreign nationals who are permanent residents of Japan remains extremely difficult as entry from most countries is effectively prohibited for anyone not holding a Japanese or diplomatic passport. Foreigners who leave are likely to be denied re-entry and may therefore join the growing pool of people who are normally resident in Japan but are unable to return to their homes and jobs. While it is possible to apply for permission to leave and then re-enter the country, this is restricted to specific circumstances such as family emergencies or medical treatment. Additionally, many employers are reporting anticipated staffing problems as newly employed workers recruited overseas are presently unable to enter Japan.

In response to mounting pressure, the ministry of foreign affairs (MFA) has outlined a framework for business travel though initially this is limited to a small number of countries where COVID19 is contained (currently this applies to Vietnam, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand). The stated position is that the framework will be extended to other countries on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the level of infection reported. Travel into Japan from countries with high levels of transmission may therefore not be possible for some time.

The intention is that travellers to Japan will be required to monitor and report any symptoms during the 14 days prior to departure and to also undergo a pre-departure PCR test. On arrival in Japan, they will be re-tested and will then be required quarantine or to record location data for 14 days. This system will clearly have a limited capacity so until conditions for travel are further relaxed, it is likely that there will be a period of time during which travel may be theoretically possible but limited by quotas.

### ***References***

Reported Caseload Graphs and data sourced from MHLW as reported by Toyo Keizai and the Tokyo metropolitan government –

<https://toyokeizai.net/sp/visual/tko/covid19/en.html>

<https://stopcovid19.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/>

### ***Resources***

How to get help if you suspect that you have COVID19 (Tokyo residents)

<https://stopcovid19.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/flow>