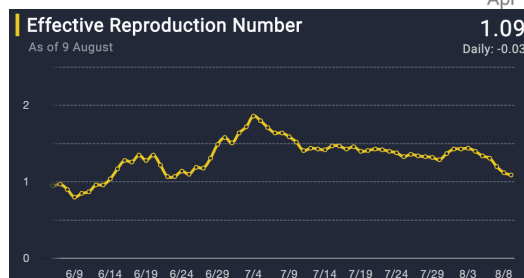
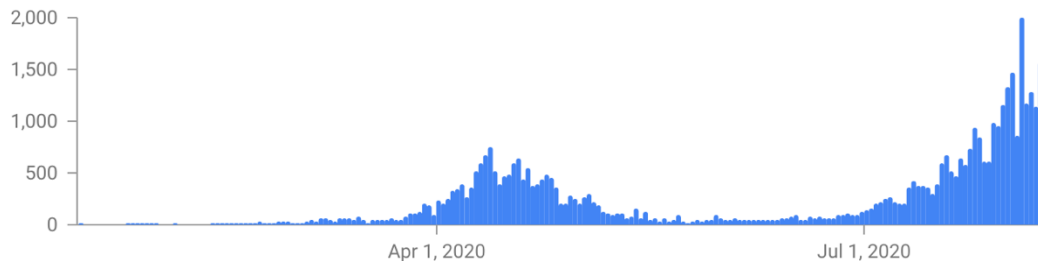


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 11th of August 2020

Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician for advice.

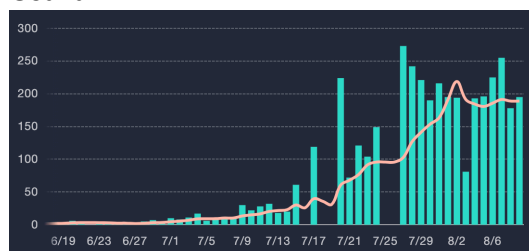
Current Situation in Japan

(National number of new diagnoses)



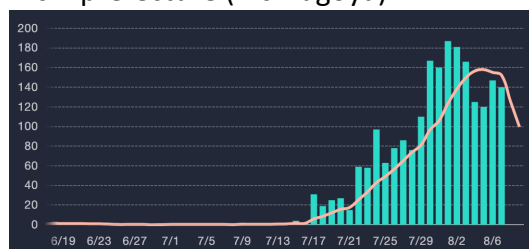
Case numbers across urban Japan remain high though with some signs that the rate of increase in new infections is slowing. The reproduction number (R) across the country has fallen to 1.09.

Osaka



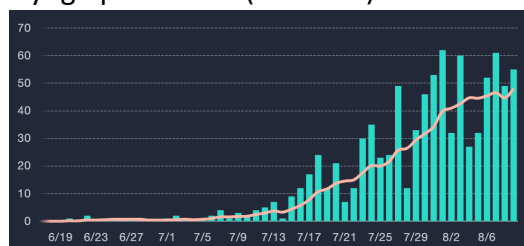
Osaka continues to report close to 200 cases a day but without a significant increase over the past 10 days. Similar trends can be seen in other major urban centers including Nagoya and Kobe, though there is no clear evidence of a sustained fall in the number of new infections in any large cities as of now.

Aichi prefecture (inc Nagoya)



COVID19 mortality has risen though is significantly lower than was seen in May with daily reported national deaths for August remaining in single digits. This reflects a trend seen in many other countries including the US, where daily case numbers are approximately double those seen in the spring, with mortality running at about half.

Hyogo prefecture (inc Kobe)

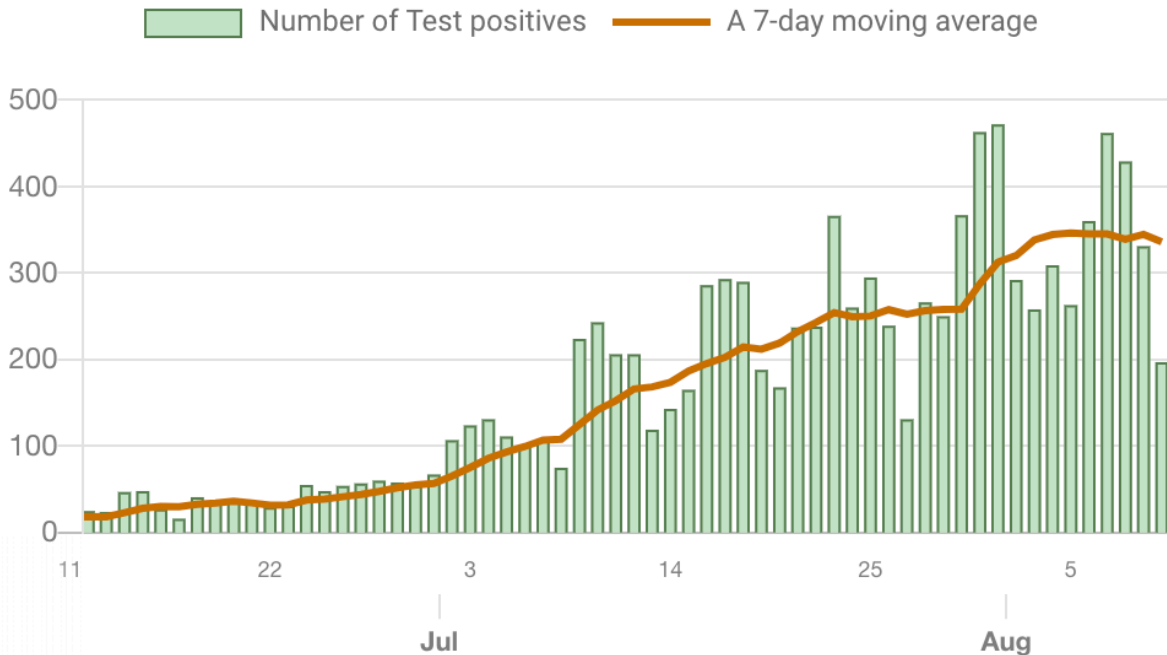


The significant fall in observed mortality is likely to reflect a number of factors including:

- More widespread testing meaning that a larger number of milder cases are being diagnosed.
- A demographic shift, with more infections in younger people, who tend to have better outcomes.
- Improved outcomes in hospital patients.

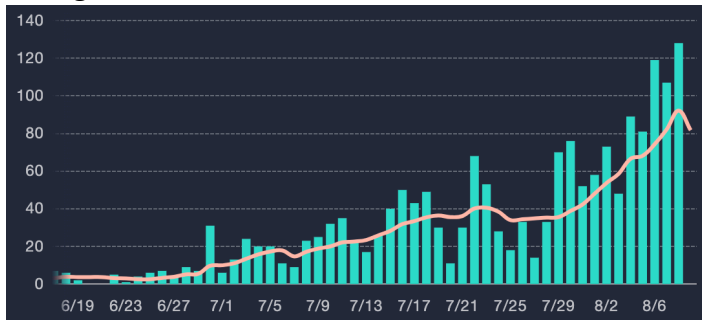
Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 11th of August 2020

Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region



As in other urban centres, high numbers of new cases continue to be reported on a daily basis but with a slowing rate of increase. There is no clear evidence of a fall in the number of new cases as of now.

Kanagawa case numbers



In Chiba and Saitama Spread of contagion continues to occur at a similar pace to that observed in Tokyo, with (R) numbers of 1.18 and 1.05 respectively (in Tokyo $R = 1.04$).

Case numbers appear to be rising faster in Kanagawa ($R 1.35$), making this the current regional hot spot.

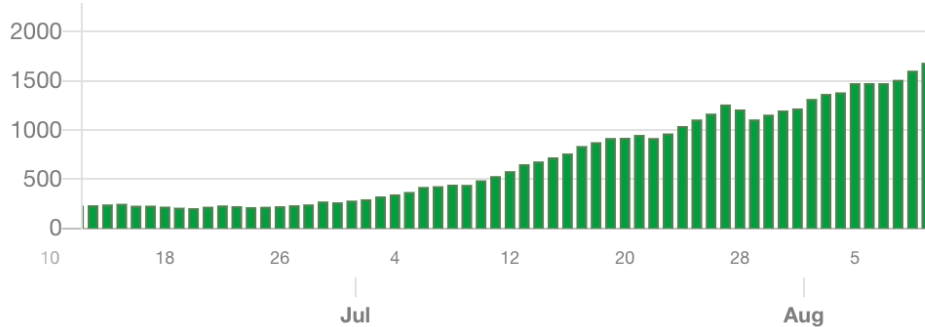
Some signs of population fatigue in response to recommended measures have been reported in the local media, with a small anti-mask demonstration occurring outside Shibuya station on Saturday the 9th of August. This was apparently organized by Masayuki Hiratsuka, whose unsuccessful bid to be elected Mayor of Tokyo was based on the slogan “Coronavirus is just a cold”. Following the demonstration, participants were encouraged to ride the Yamanote line from 8pm without masks in the hope that this would make other passengers feel foolish for wearing masks. It appears that fewer than 20 people in total participated in this part of the protest, though. As has been the case since the start of the pandemic, masks remain optional on transport and in other locations, though some businesses such as shops display signs advising that customers need to wear masks to enter the premises.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 11th of August 2020

Hospital Care in Tokyo

Patient numbers continue to rise in Tokyo as in other parts of the country, though remain within the capacity allocated for COVID19 cases during the April/May first wave of the pandemic (4,800 beds). Newly diagnosed patients with milder symptoms are not presently facing mandatory hospitalization if they do not pose a risk of transmitting to cohabiting family members.

Total Patient Numbers, Tokyo (bed capacity 4,800)



Numbers of patients requiring higher level care (ventilation or similar) remain low in comparison to the first wave and are well within the healthcare system's capacity at present.

Patients Requiring Intensive Care, Tokyo

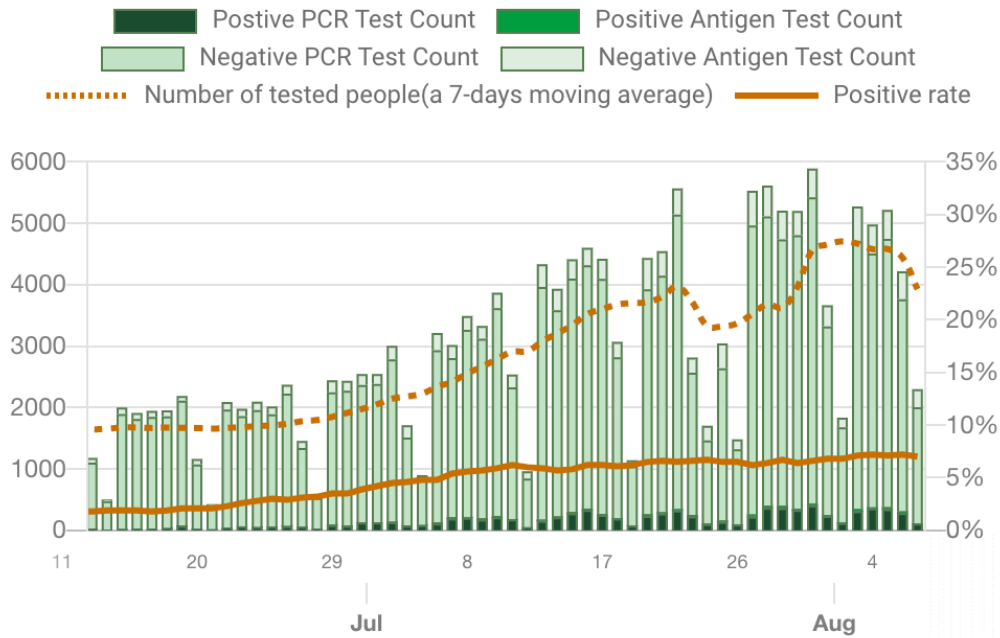


The Tokyo metropolitan government is currently looking to increase the availability of hotel rooms for patients with milder symptoms who require isolation to limit risk of contagion. After increasing availability to 1,200 rooms during the first wave, capacity was then reduced to 100 but is now set to be increased once again to limit the strain on hospitals.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 11th of August 2020

Testing in Tokyo

Between 5-6,000 tests (PCR and antigen) are currently being performed daily with positive results returning on 7% of samples.



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>