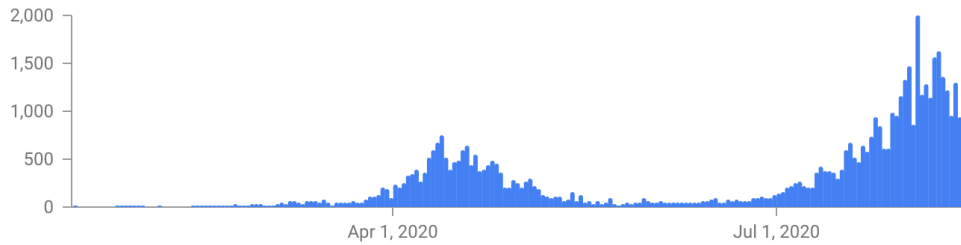


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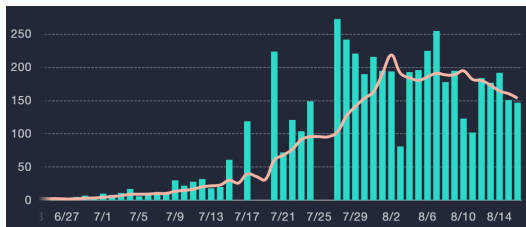
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

National number of new diagnoses

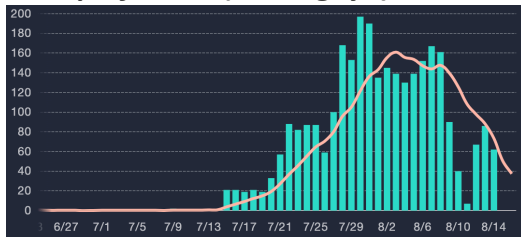


Osaka



The reproduction rate for Japan has continued to fall to a current level of 0.88. As it has been below 1.0 for the past week, if this trend were maintained, the second wave of the pandemic would resolve in the coming weeks although of course the potential for further waves of infection would remain.

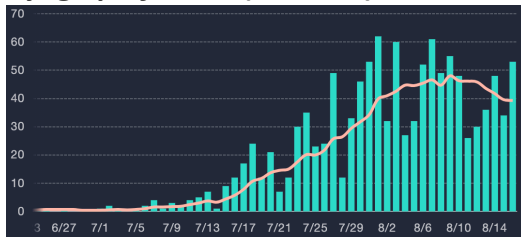
Aichi prefecture (inc Nagoya)



National Effective reproduction number (R)

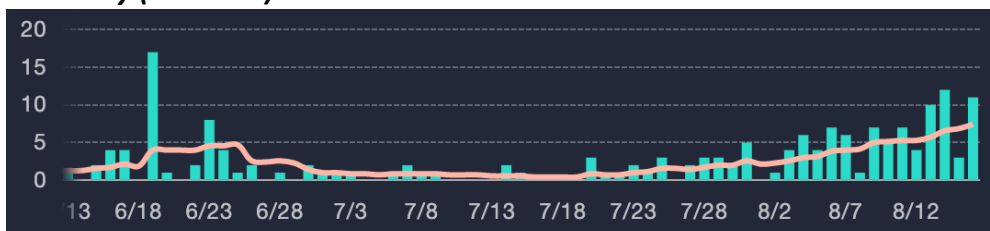


Hyogo prefecture (inc Kobe)



This reflects a gradual but consistent fall in the number of cases across most large urban centers, with Osaka, Nagoya and Kobe all reporting marginal reductions in new infections.

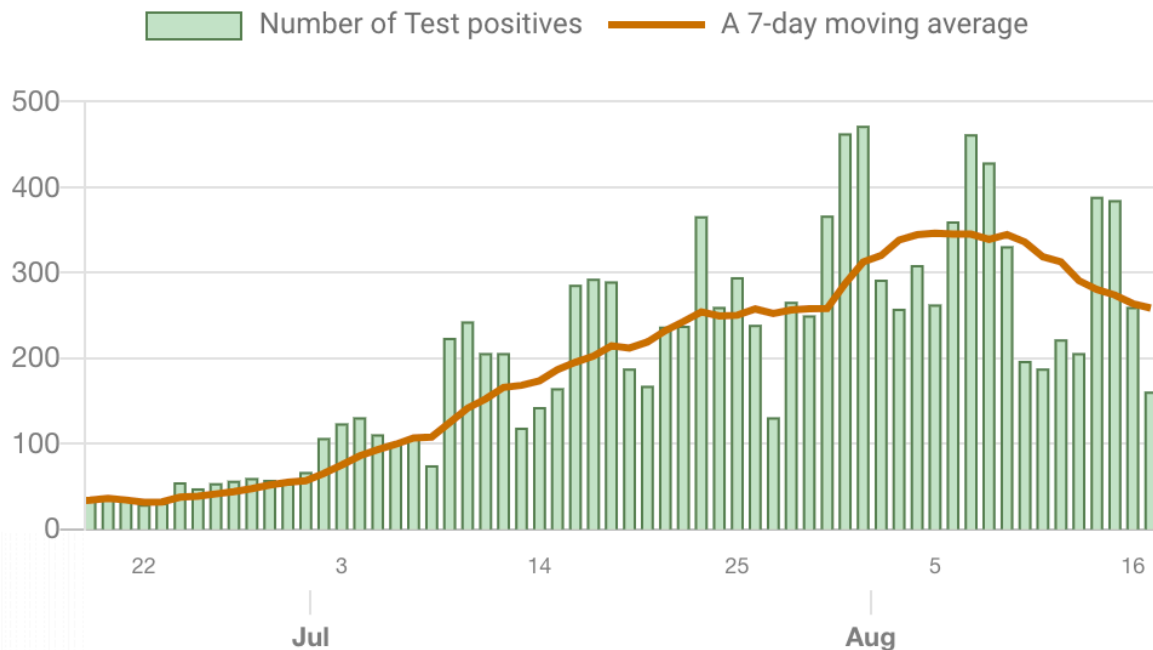
Mortality (National)



While COVID19 mortality has risen slightly over the past two weeks, it remains far below the levels seen during the first (spring) wave, when numbers of deaths ran at approximately three times the levels being seen now.

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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region



Case numbers in Tokyo (above) are showing a similar downward trend to those seen in other large cities, with a reproduction rate of 0.83. The same can be seen across the region, with falling case numbers in Chiba ($R = 0.84$), Saitama ($R = 0.87$) and Kanagawa ($R = 0.93$). Some observers have speculated that both nationally and in Kansai, this may be a consequence of reduced testing carried out over the o-bon holiday period. However, reported test numbers for Tokyo are stable (see below) so it is reasonable to assume that there has been a genuine fall in the number of new infections.

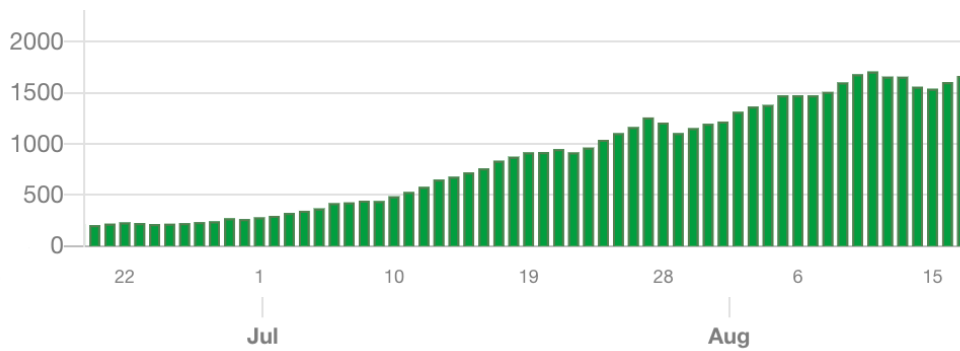
The present outbreak is within reach of being brought under control, although a number of factors may intervene to prevent this in the coming weeks. The government is likely to be under increasing pressure to address recent dismal economic data and may struggle to stimulate the economy without creating conditions under which further outbreaks become more probable. The consequences of increasing travel over the holiday period remain to be seen. Looking further ahead, the end of this year will bring an increase in typical winter respiratory infections such as influenza and rhinovirus which will interact with COVID19 in an unpredictable manner.

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Hospital Care in Tokyo

Patient numbers in Tokyo are stable and remain well within the capacity provided for COVID19 cases. On present trends it is unlikely that medical resources will be unduly stretched in the coming weeks even if new infection numbers fail to fall further.

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 presently well within the healthcare system's capacity with no significant upward trend.

Patients Requiring Intensive Care, Tokyo

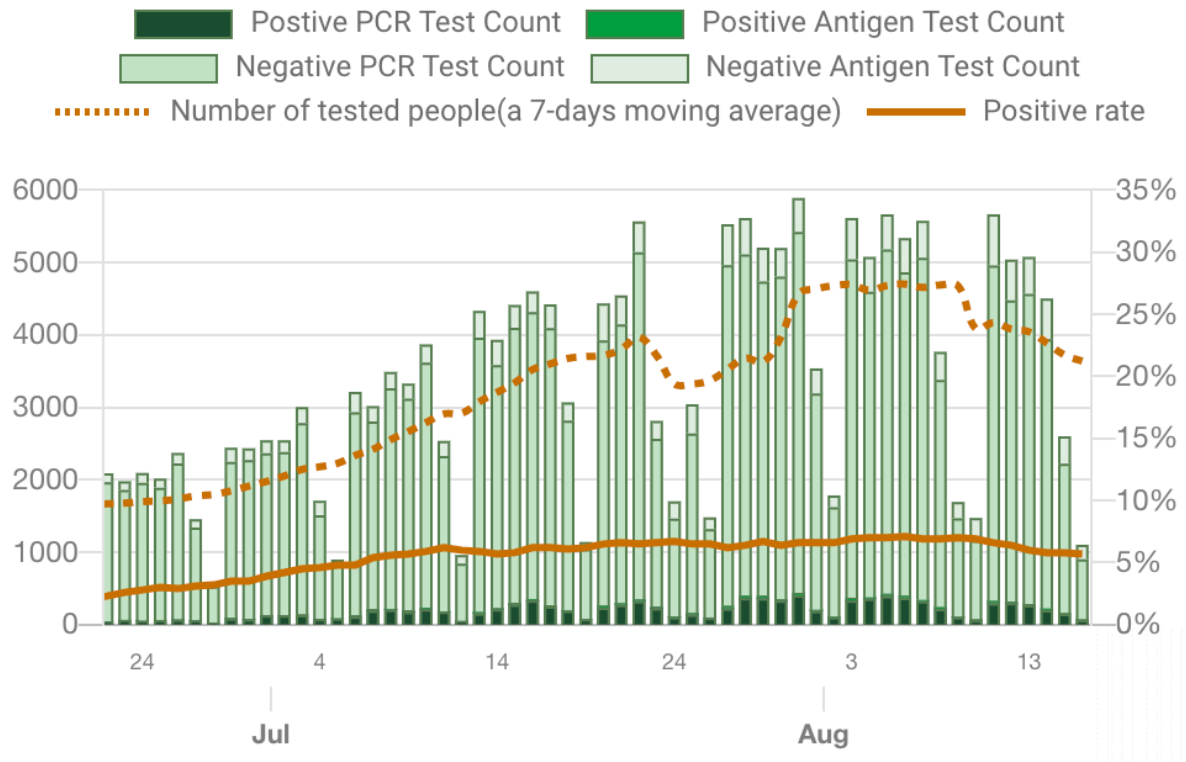


With an increase in availability of hotel rooms for patients with milder symptoms, some of the pressure on regular hospital beds has been relieved.

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Testing in Tokyo

Between 5-6,000 tests (PCR and antigen) continue to be performed daily with positive results returning on 5.7% of samples (down from a peak of 7%).



The health ministry is employing additional staff to enhance contact tracing and testing in higher risk locations such as nightlife areas of Shinjuku, in the hope of bringing the current outbreak under control more quickly and presumably also to have infrastructure in place to reduce the risk of such areas seeding further outbreaks later in the year.

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>