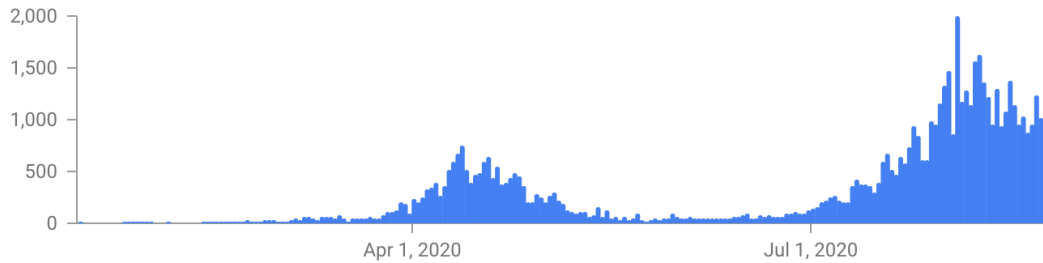


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 25th of August 2020

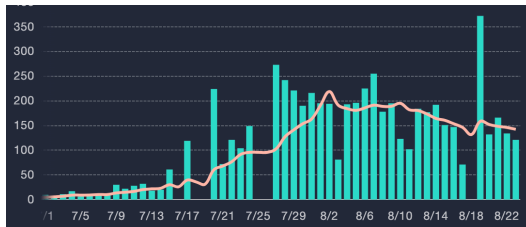
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

National number of new diagnoses

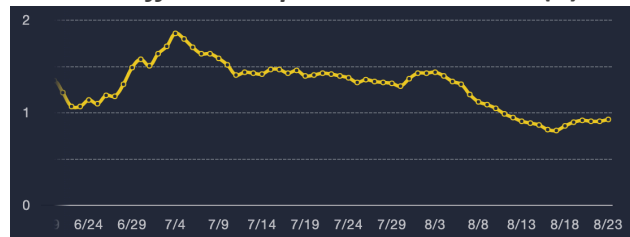


Osaka

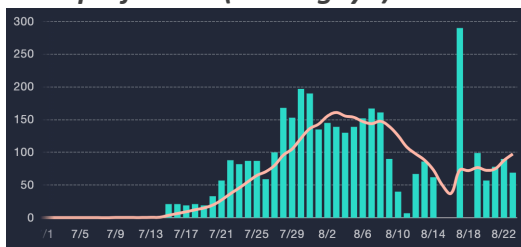


The country-wide reproduction rate remains below 1.0 (most recently reported as 0.93), reflecting a gradual decline in daily case numbers in most parts of Japan:

National Effective reproduction number (R)

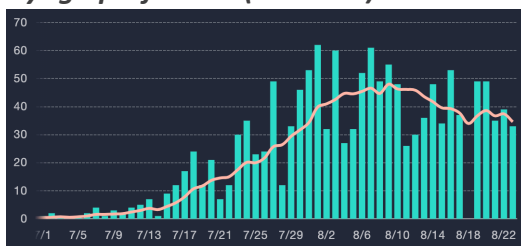


Aichi prefecture (inc Nagoya)



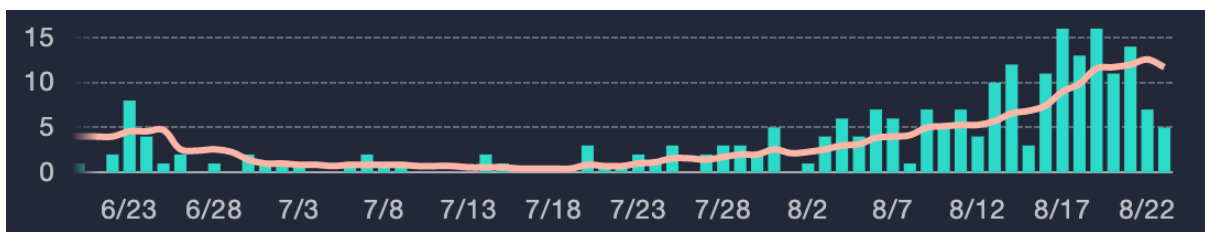
Larger urban centers, which have reported the bulk of infections over the past month, show a reasonably consistent improvement with reproduction numbers of 0.95 in Osaka and 0.91 in Hyogo (see opposite)

Hyogo prefecture (inc Kobe)



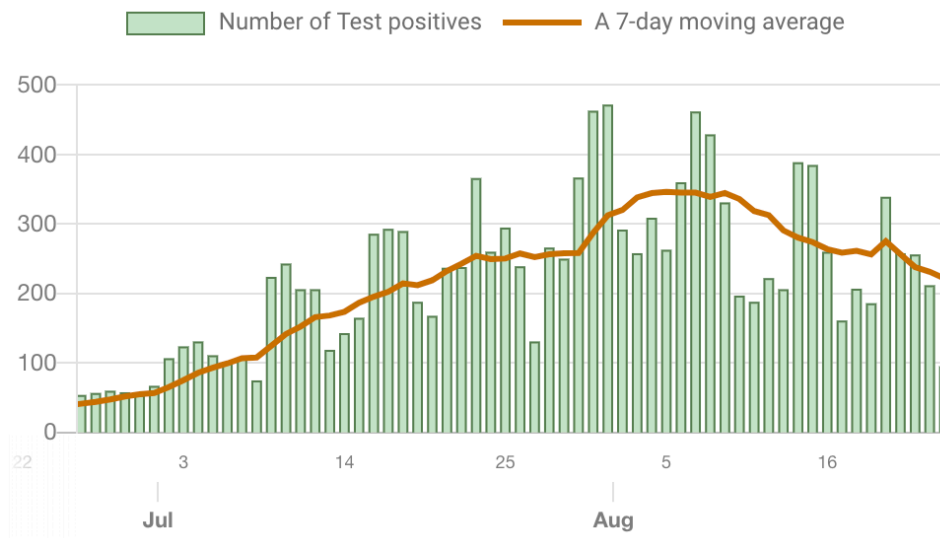
COVID19 mortality continues to rise gradually but remains modest by international standards and is still below the levels seen during the initial (April/May) first wave of the pandemic, when daily totals were approximately double those seen in the past week. However, mortality rates in elderly patients are little changed as compared to the spring outbreak.

Mortality (National)



Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 25th of August 2020

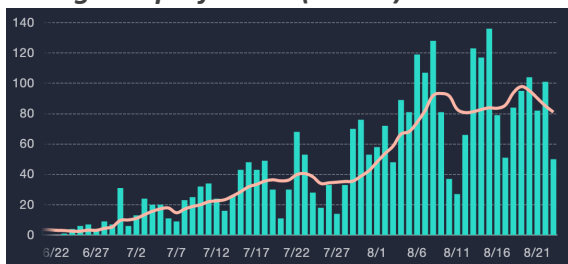
Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region



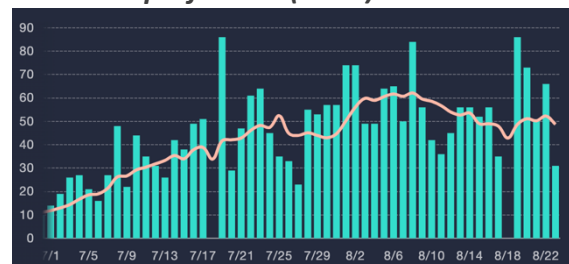
As in other large cities, Tokyo did not experience an increase in cases in the week following the end of the o-bon holiday period but has rather seen a sustained decline in infections. The reproduction number for the capital has been slightly below 1.0 for over two weeks and typical (seven day average) daily case numbers have fallen from a peak of approximately 350 to a present level of a little over 200. Additional resources have been brought in to help manage the outbreak in the worst affected ward (Shinjuku), where local and national agencies are engaged in enhanced levels of contact tracing. However, the majority of cases remain of unknown origin suggesting that tracing is only a partial solution.

Across the remainder of the Kanto region, there is less evidence of an ongoing fall in infections with reproduction numbers in the prefectures surrounding Tokyo being at or close to 1.0, suggesting that the potential for a further increase in infections in the region remains.

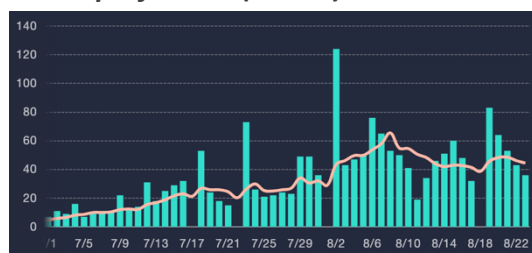
Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.98)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.0)



Chiba prefecture (R 1.03)

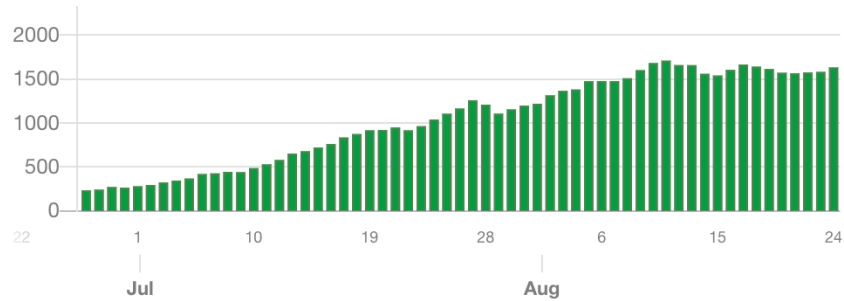


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 25th of August 2020

Hospital Care in Tokyo

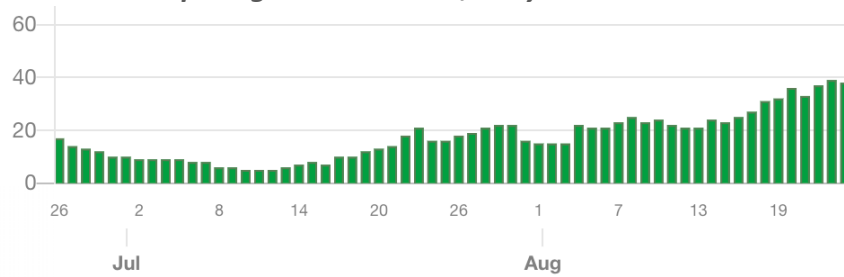
Patient numbers have stabilized well within the medical system's capacity and can be anticipated to fall in the coming weeks if the reproduction rate remains below 1.0.

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



Rather more high level (ICU) care beds are presently occupied by COVID19 patients, though numbers remain comfortably within the available capacity for the region.

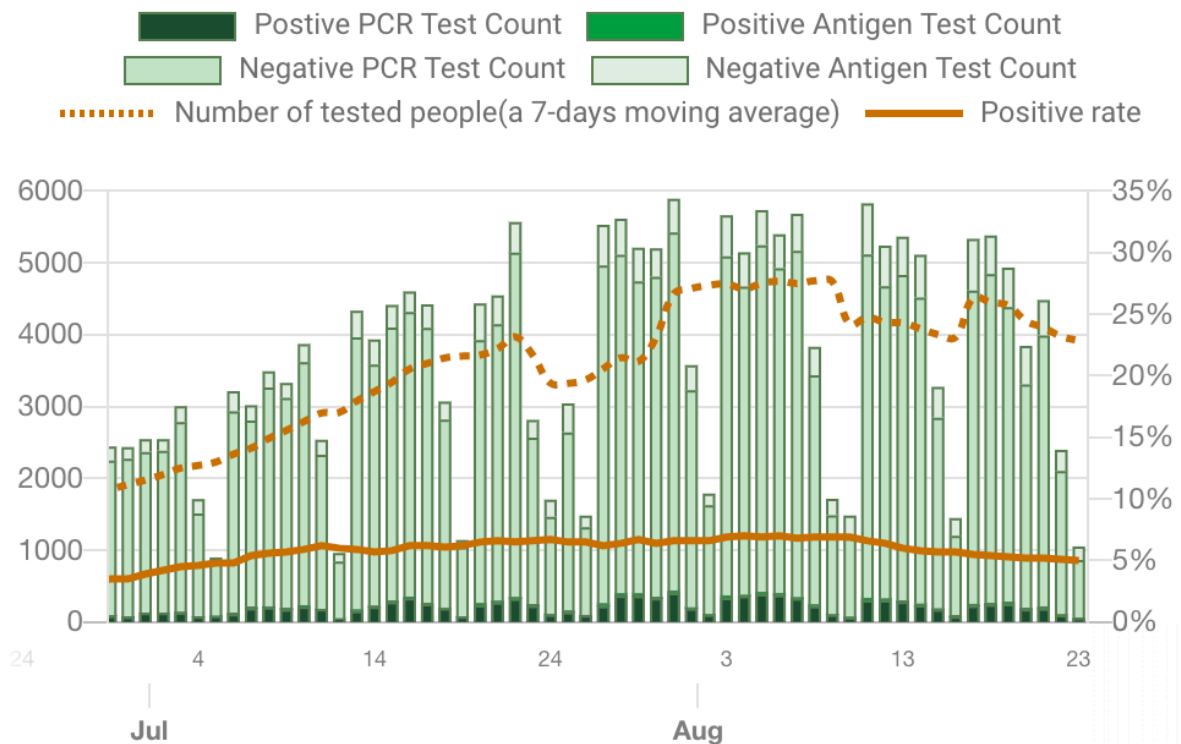
Patients Requiring Intensive Care, Tokyo



Situation report – COVID19; Japan, Tuesday 25th of August 2020

Testing in Tokyo

Testing is ongoing at a rate of approximately 5,000 per day (combined PCR and antigen) with a further gradual fall in the rate of positive results, from a peak of 7% to a current level of 5%. Clinical criteria continue to be applied to limit access to testing, though, with testing only carried out on contacts of COVID19 cases or on individuals who have had respiratory symptoms for a number of days or of over a threshold severity.



Many other countries have developed a more open-access testing system than Japan's, with tests available even in the absence of symptoms or COVID19 contact. Earlier in the year there was some policy level discussion about this approach to managing the pandemic; however, at present there seems to be little prospect of broadening the system to allow testing on request or to individuals with minimal symptoms.

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>