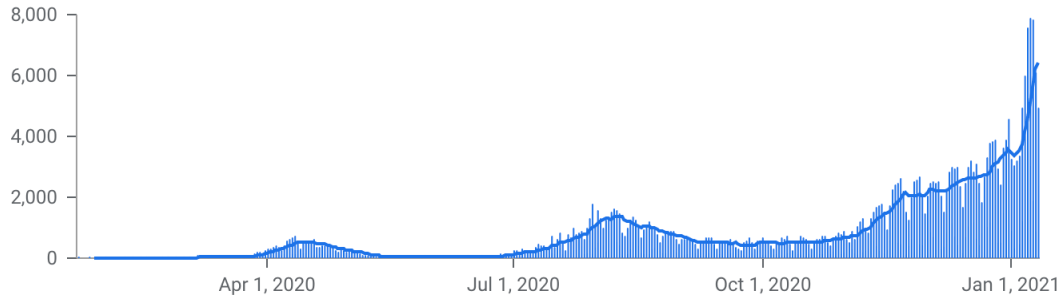


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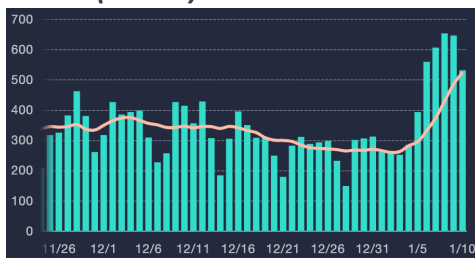
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan – cases are rising rapidly

National number of diagnoses per day:

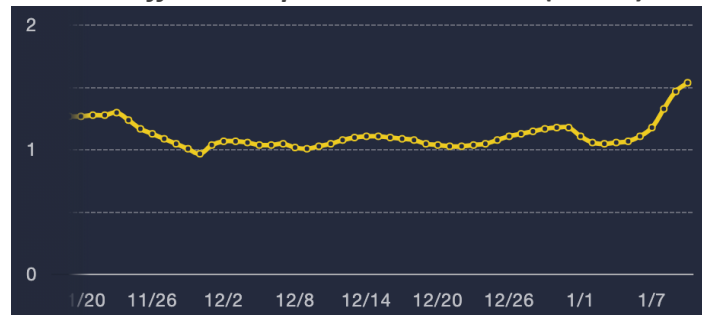


Osaka (R 1.64)

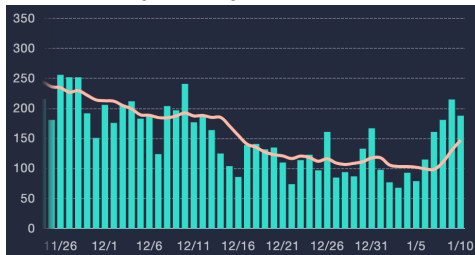


The past week has seen the greatest numerical increase in reported infections since the pandemic began. Japan's reproduction number is at the highest level seen since July 2020:

National Effective reproduction number (R 1.54)

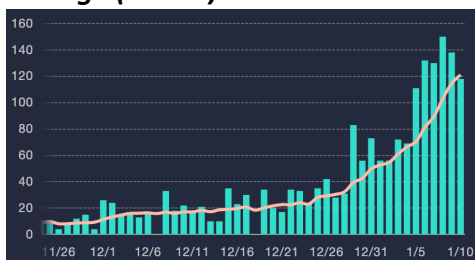


Hokkaido (R 1.29)



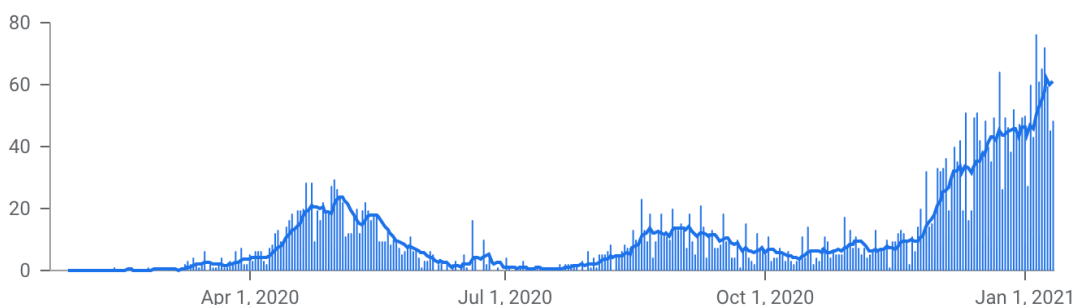
This is in part an artefact from delays in diagnosing and reporting infections over the end of year holiday. However, it is occurring against a background of rising contagion, meaning that new diagnoses may increase further over the next week, before any potential reduction from the state of emergency becomes apparent.

Tochigi (R 1.63)



Parts of the country which had seen a sustained reduction in infections (Osaka & Hokkaido) have similarly experienced rising case numbers and infections continue to surge in rural areas.

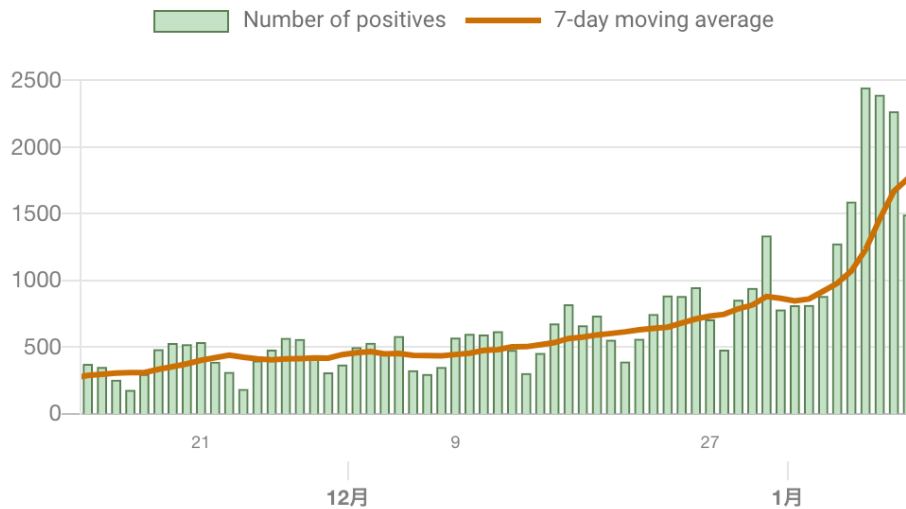
Mortality (National)



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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 1.67)

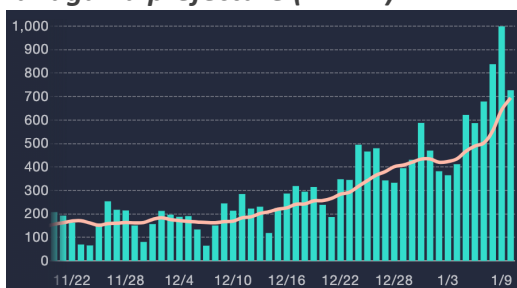


Infections have likewise risen to unprecedented levels in the capital with over 2,000 new cases being reported on each of the three days from the 7th to 9th of January. Other than reporting delay from the end of year holidays, other factors which may have contributed to this include:

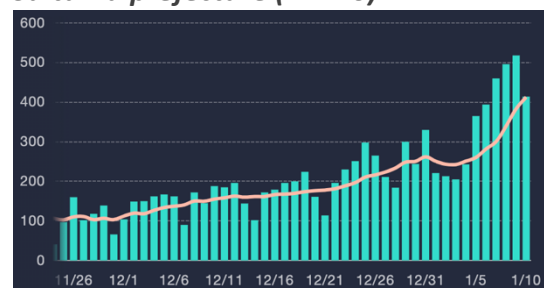
- Underlying climatic factors, as the SARS-CoV2 virus is known to be more stable at lower temperatures.
- Increased travel within Japan during the holiday period.

As of now there is no evidence of significant transmission of new variants of COVID-19 within the region though sporadic cases have been picked up at immigration and in people who have recently entered Japan from the UK and other countries.

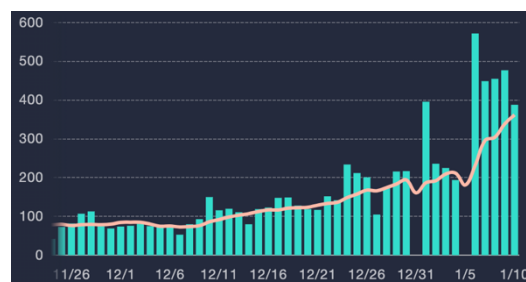
Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.42)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.46)



Chiba prefecture (R 1.48)

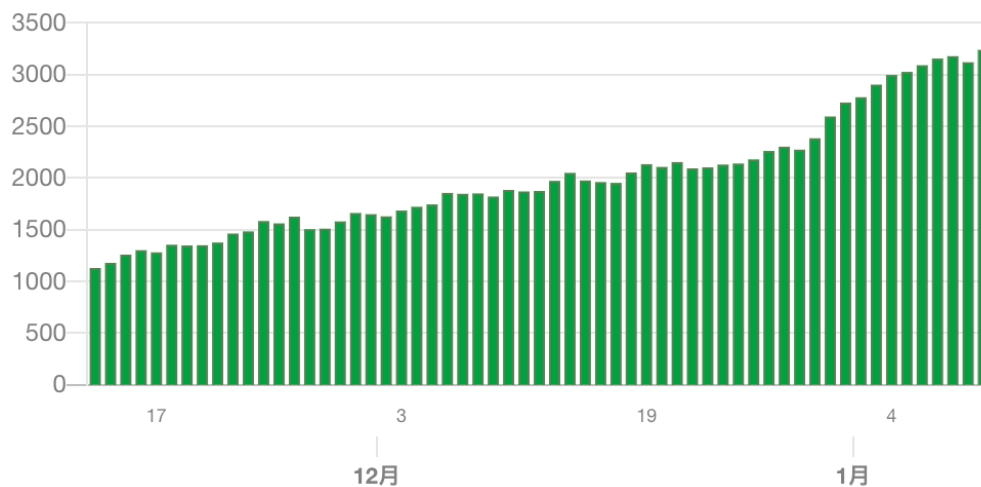


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Hospital Care in Tokyo

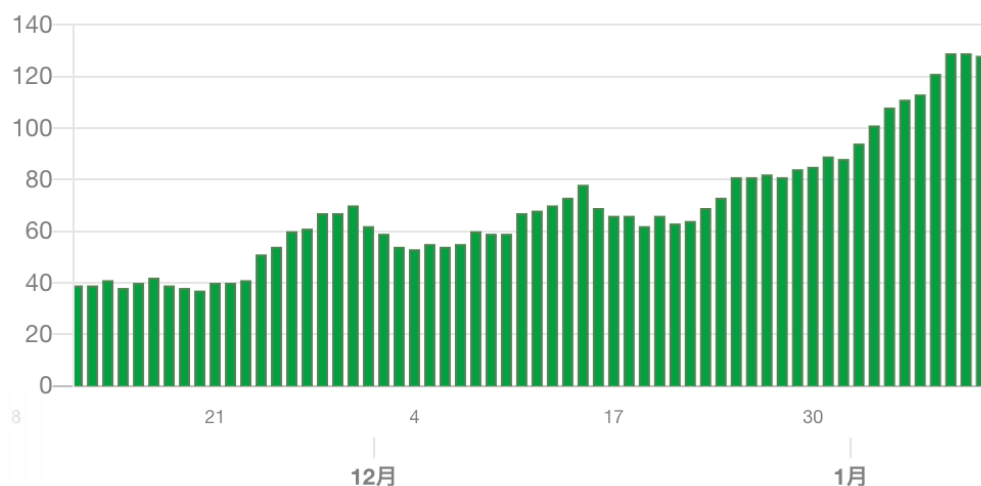
Hospitals continue to be pressured with the number of reported active cases (18,923) exceeding the total bed capacity (4000 hospital beds and 2360 beds in designated hotels). As people with milder infections are mostly managed without admission to either hospitals or hotels, there are presently enough available beds for elderly or more seriously unwell patients who require active treatment. However, at the current rate of new hospital admissions, beds allocated to the care of COVID19 patients are likely to be filled before the end of the month, meaning that additional capacity will need to be found by repurposing beds presently used for routine care.

Total in-hospital patient numbers, Tokyo (exc. Hotel stays)



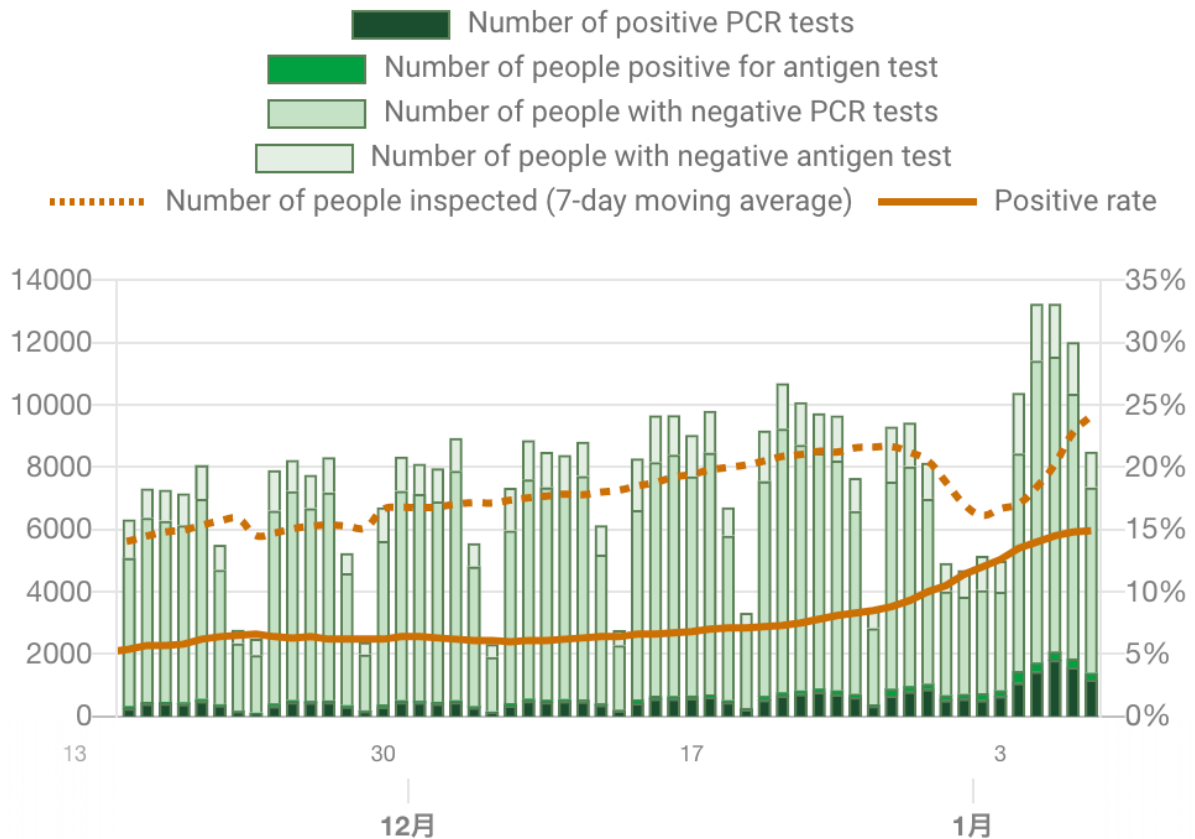
Numbers of more severely unwell patients remain within the available capacity with 200 ICU beds designated for COVID-19 cases though with a further increase in more seriously unwell patients over the past week.

Patients Requiring Intensive Care, Tokyo



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Testing in Tokyo



Testing rates have increased substantially and are now approximately 50% higher than was the case in November with over 13,000 being performed on peak days. Concerningly, though, 15% are returning positive results.

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Masayuki Imagawa, head of Takeda's vaccine business, has stated that even under the most optimistic projections, the Moderna COVID19 vaccine will not be ready for distribution in Japan until May. Takeda is the largest pharmaceutical company in Asia and is handling regulatory approval and distribution of this vaccine as well as manufacture and distribution of one other COVID19 vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine has been approved for use in several western countries but is required to undergo duplicate trials in Japan before it can be submitted for approval here. At present only Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine has completed local trials and is now under consideration by the health ministry.

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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>