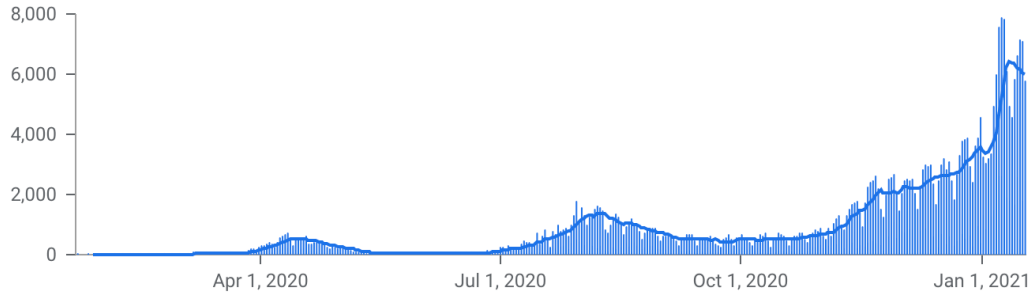


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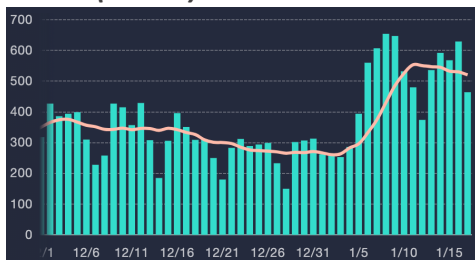
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

National number of diagnoses per day:



Osaka (R 0.99)

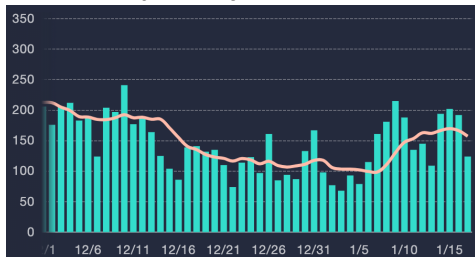


The rate of new infections has stabilized. It is too early to determine whether this represents the peak of the third wave having been reached or rather is simply a statistical anomaly caused by excess diagnoses in the week after the end of year holiday.

National Effective reproduction number (R 0.97)

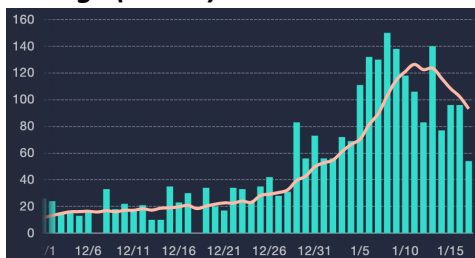


Hokkaido (R 1.05)



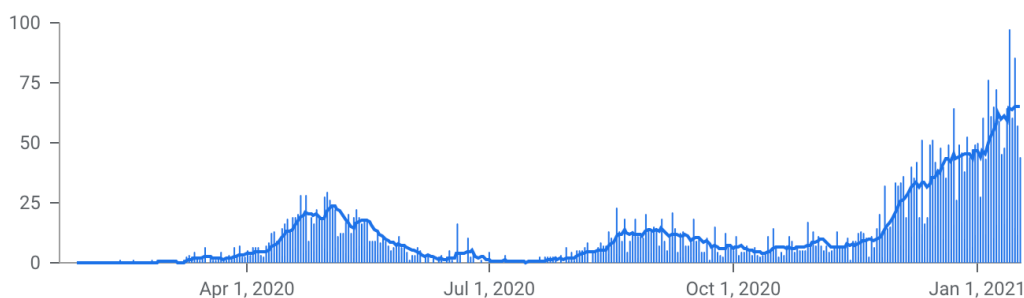
This national trend reflects events in urban areas such as Osaka, which saw a sharp increase in cases in early January but has not experienced any further rise in contagion since. In some rural areas which saw escalating case numbers in December matters have improved, illustrating that local measures are still able to address regional upsurges in infection.

Tochigi (R 0.83)



Daily deaths due to COVID 19 continue to climb and are likely to do so for some time to come as mortality trends tend to lag new infections by weeks.

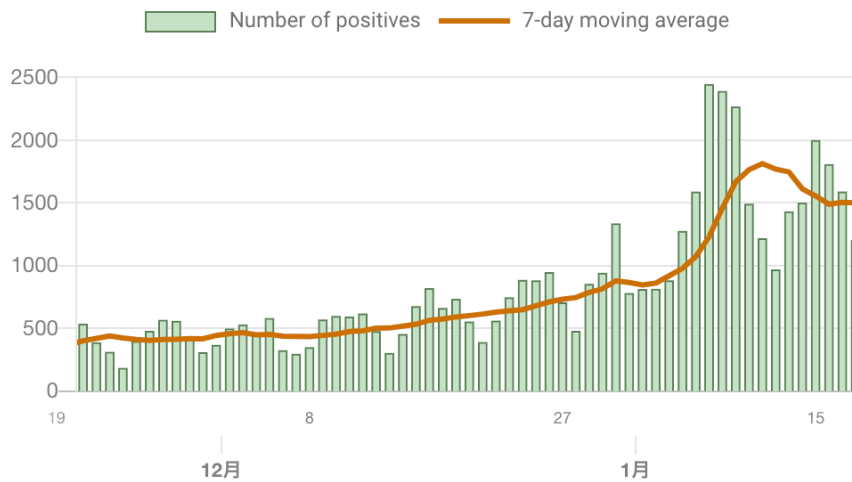
Mortality (National)



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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

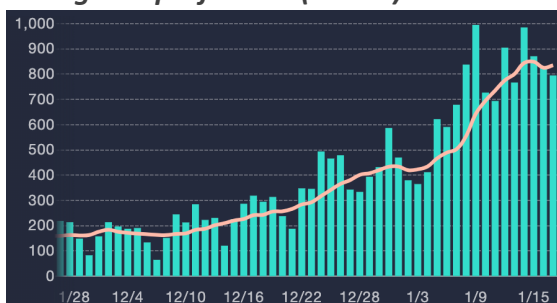
Tokyo daily cases (R 0.89)



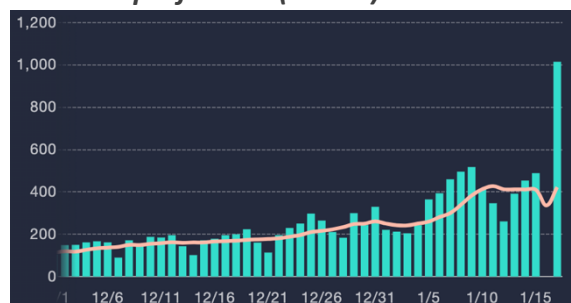
While the number of new infections remains high, the seven-day average has fallen, a possible early indication that the current state of emergency may be beginning to bring about some improvement. However, the high number of infected people requiring monitoring at home is placing strain on the ability of public health units to perform thorough contact tracing leading to curtailment of this function in some wards. As such, there is a possibility that a reduction in contact tracing is leading to a fall in new diagnoses as fewer asymptomatic infections are detected.

Case numbers continue to rise in the Kanto region at large. In Kanagawa prefecture universal contact tracing has been discontinued as health units have switched their focus to maintaining regular contact with more vulnerable individuals who are infected but not hospitalized.

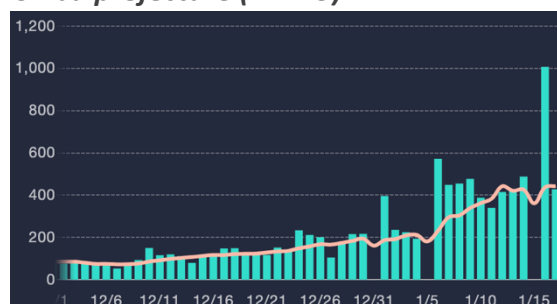
Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.14)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.02)



Chiba prefecture (R 1.15)

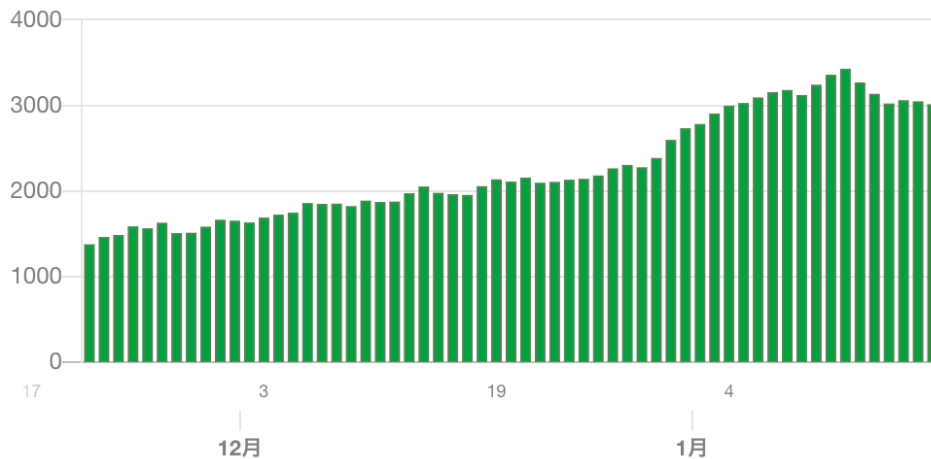


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Hospital Care in Tokyo

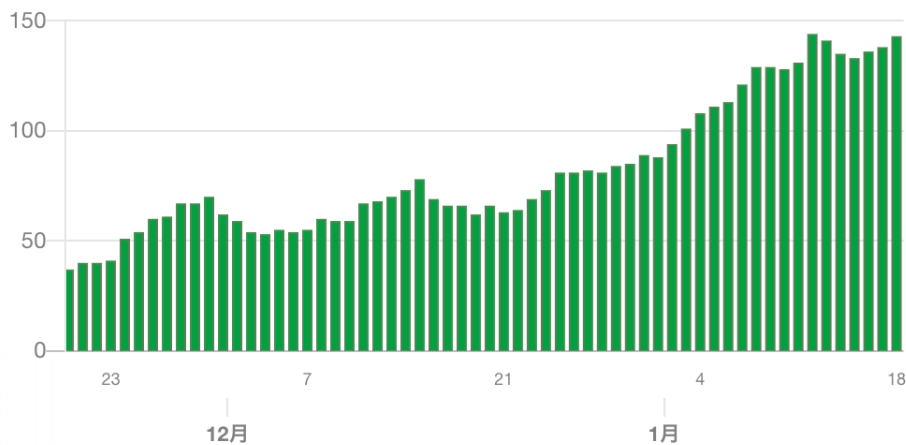
Hospitals continue to be pressured with the number of reported active cases (20,777) exceeding the current total bed capacity (4000 hospital beds and 2360 beds in designated hotels). However, the number of in-patient cases has fallen slightly and is presently a little over 3,000, reflecting the fact that many hospitals with COVID-19 designated wards continue to have vacant beds.

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



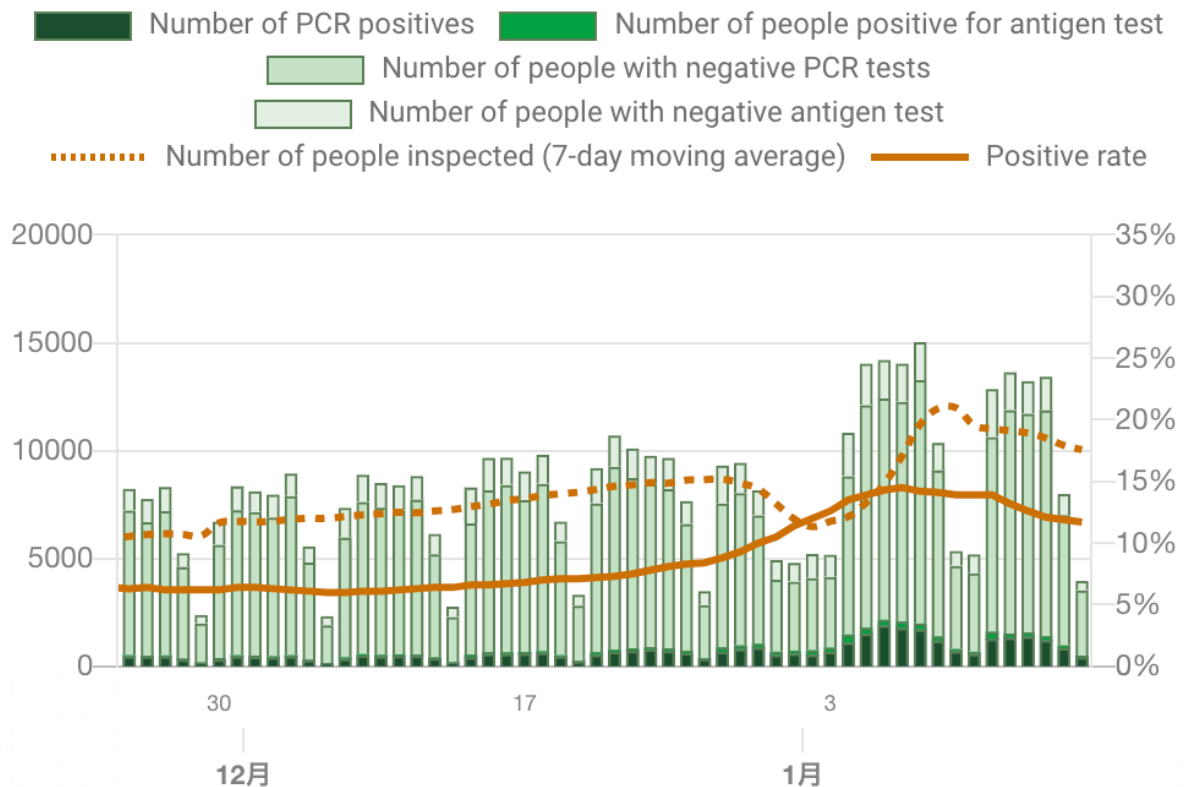
Numbers of more severely unwell patients remain well within available high dependency capacity. 250 ICU beds are presently designated for COVID-19 cases.

Patients Requiring Intensive Care, Tokyo



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Testing in Tokyo



As testing becomes available through a greater number of facilities and no longer requires the involvement of local health units, appreciably more people are being tested than was the case in late 2020. However, rates are still relatively sparse by international standards. The rate of positive results, which peaked at over 15% at the beginning of the month, has now fallen to 11.7%

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Although Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine has yet to be formally approved by the Health Ministry, early indications are that it will be offered to healthcare workers from late February and then to individuals from March or April.

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>