

Situation report – COVID19; Japan 9th of February 2021

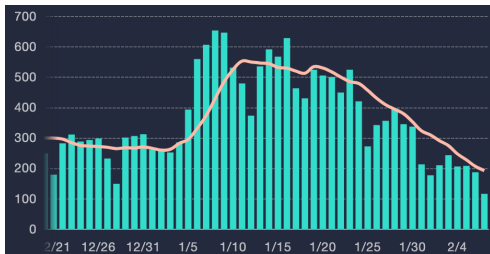
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Current Situation in Japan

National number of diagnoses per day:

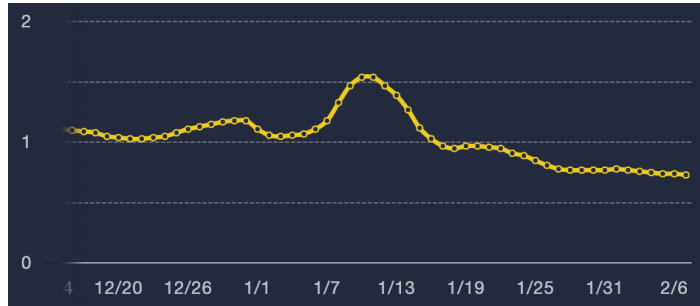


Osaka (R 0.69)

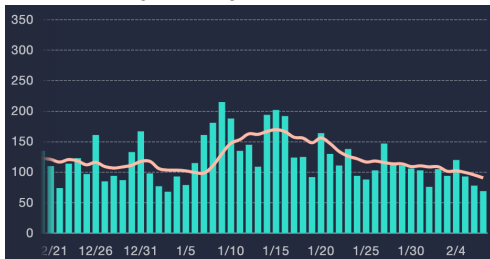


The reduction in new infections has continued into its fourth week with the 7-day average of new daily infections falling to approximately 2,000.

National Effective reproduction number (R 0.73)



Hokkaido (R 0.87)



This trend is currently seen across almost the entire country with reproduction rates of below 1.0 in every prefecture with the exceptions of Ishikawa and Iwate, both of which can largely be discounted as their base levels of infection are extremely low.

Okinawa (R 0.65)



Of particular note, rates of contagion are dropping rapidly in large urban areas under a state of emergency outside of Kanto – Osaka and Nagoya.

Ten prefectures will remain under a state of emergency until the 7th of March (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Osaka, Hyogo, Kyoto, Aichi, Gifu and Fukuoka).

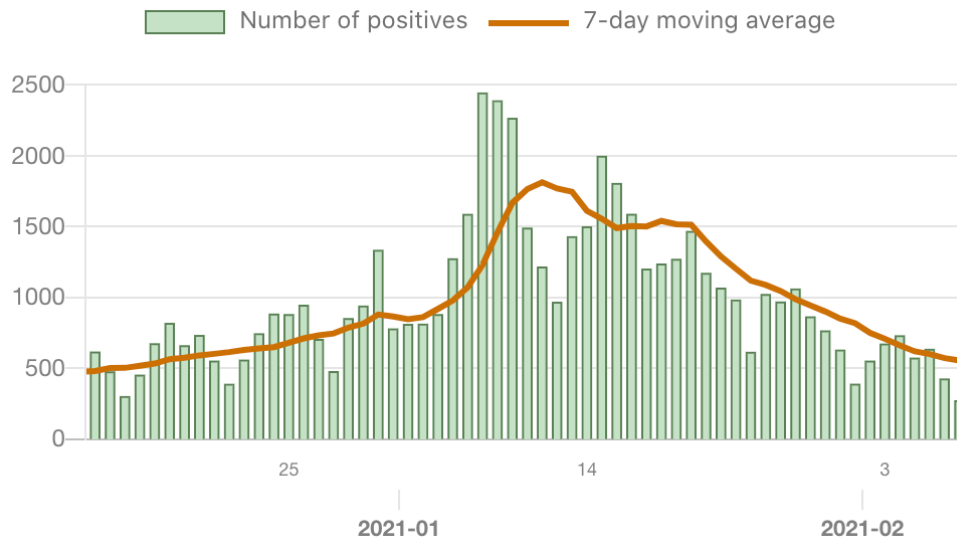
Mortality (National)



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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

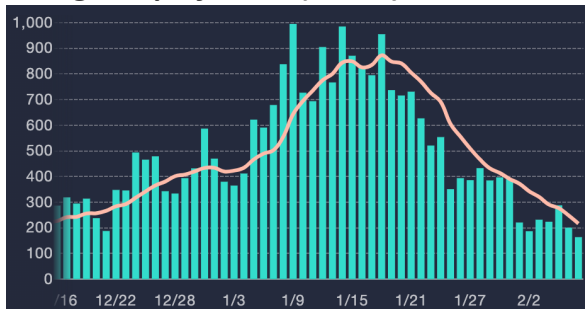
Tokyo daily cases (R 0.75)



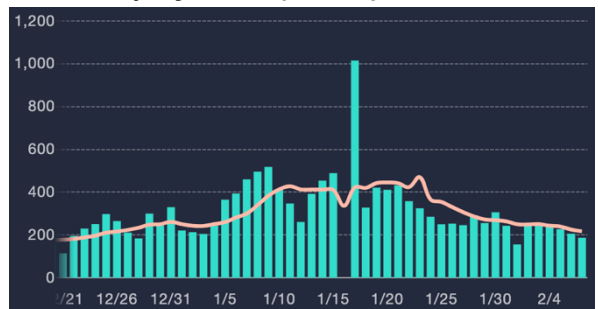
New infections continue to fall with the reproduction number now having stabilized at 0.75. Cases are now being reported at just over 500 per day, a similar rate to mid-December.

A similar reduction in cases is occurring across the Kanto region:

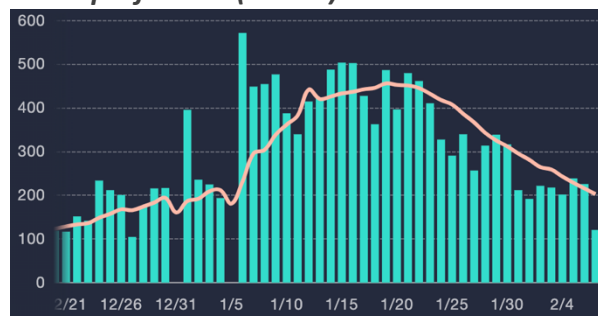
Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.66)



Saitama prefecture (R 0.87)



Chiba prefecture (R 0.76)



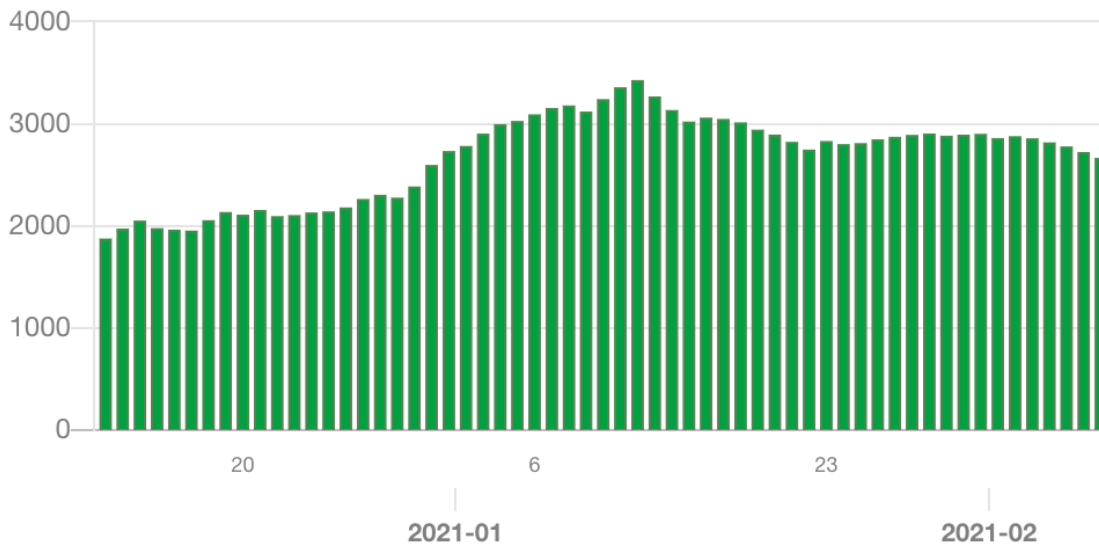
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Hospital Care in Tokyo

Care capacity in Tokyo has been significantly increased with the addition of 900 new COVID-19 designated beds, raising the available total for the capital to 4,900. Tokyo Metropolitan Hiroo Hospital has suspended all non-COVID-19 in-patient care and all out-patient care other than follow up of existing out-patients in order to prioritize care of COVID-19 patients.

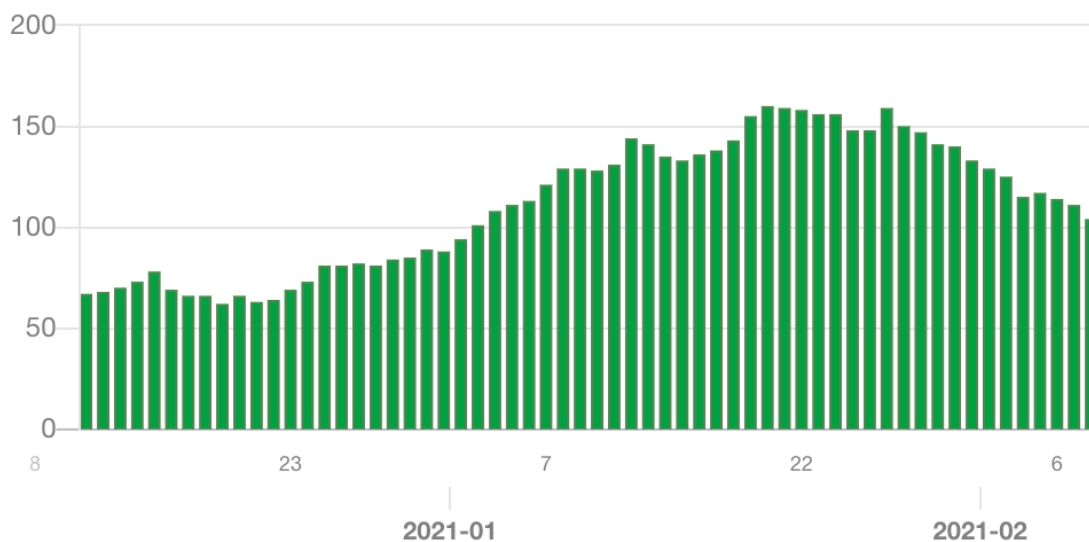
Non-hospital (modified hotel) accommodation for COVID-19 patients has been expanded from 2,360 to 3,060 beds.

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



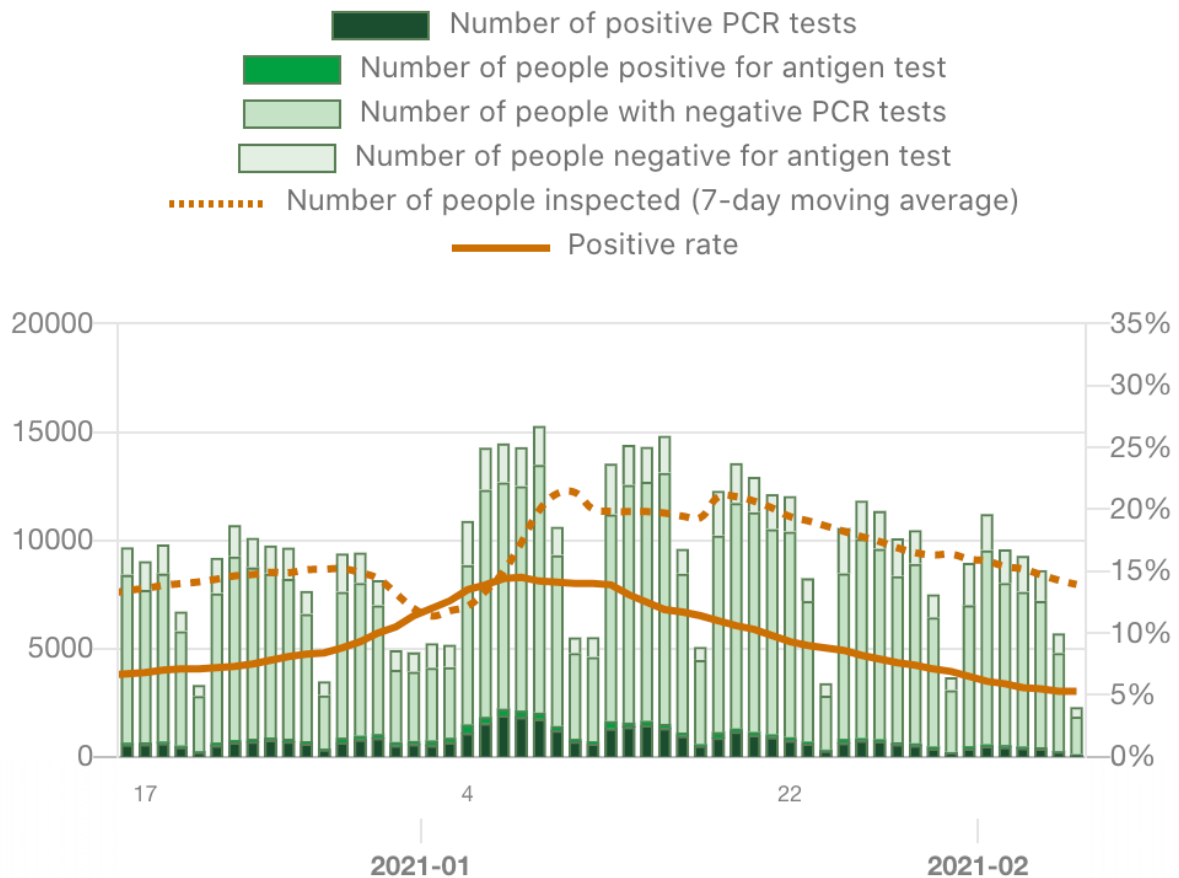
Intensive care capacity has likewise been expanded from 250 to 315 beds, while the number of patients requiring high dependency care has fallen from a little over 150 to 104.

Patients Requiring Intensive Care, Tokyo



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Testing in Tokyo



Test numbers continue to decline, with fewer people seeking advice for new onset infective symptoms than was the case in early January. The level of positive test results has continued to fall from an early January peak of 14.5% to 5.3%.

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Astra Zenica has now applied for fast-track approval of its vaccine and there have been reports that Pfizer's vaccine will receive its approval on the 15th of February with vaccination of healthcare workers to start within days. Older people are now reportedly scheduled to receive vaccines from the 1st of April with the intention to immunize the whole adult population by September, though this will of course be subject to supply constraints especially as Japan currently relies on vaccines exported from the EU.

Details of the government's plans are available on the website of the Prime Minister's office:

<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/headline/kansensho/vaccine.html>

At present it seems unlikely that earlier vaccination will be available for members of the general public through other channels such as private clinics.

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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>