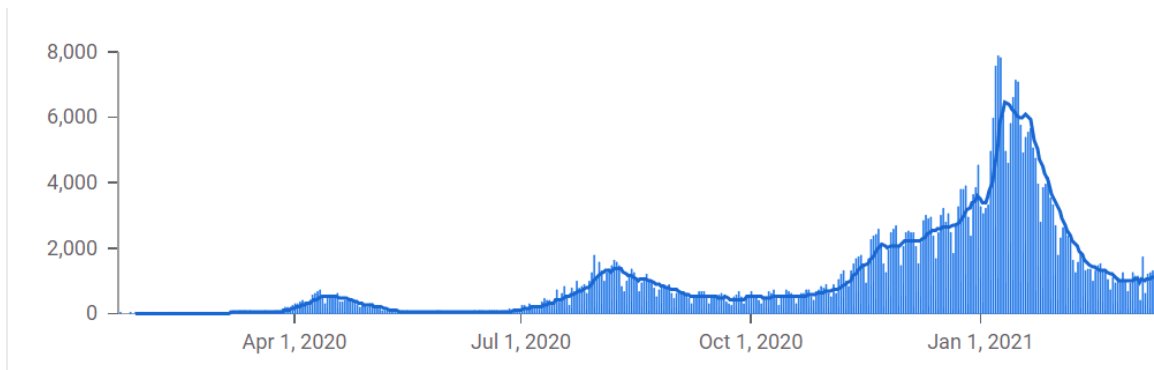


Situation report – COVID19; Japan 15th of March 2021

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Current Situation in Japan

National number of diagnoses per day:



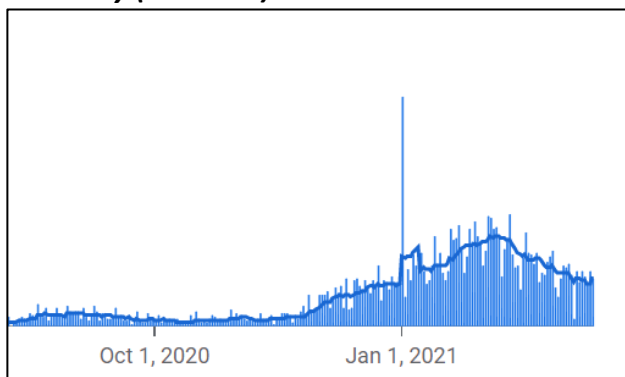
National Effective Reproduction Number (R_{eff} 1.08)



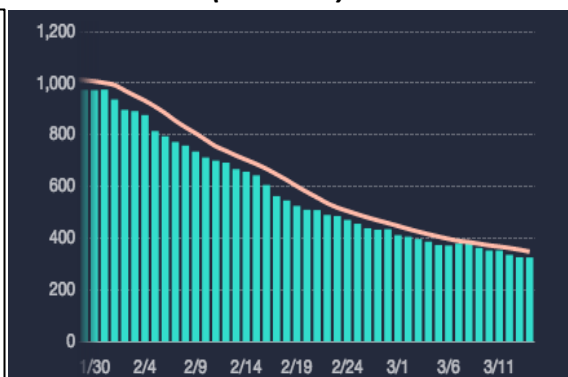
New COVID infections in Japan, while remaining relatively low at numbers last seen in November 2020, have begun their inflection upwards once again. This slow increase in viral spread is reflected in the national R_{eff} statistic, which began to consistently cross 1 around Mar 9 2020 after hovering at equilibrium for much of last week. Given the lifting of states of emergencies in several

prefectures outside of Kanto, national complacency due to improved numbers over the preceding month, as well as perhaps the approach of spring weather driving people towards more social situations, this mild uptick is somewhat unsurprising. Despite this, number of patients with critical illness continues to steadily fall, as does mortality from COVID19.

Mortality (National)



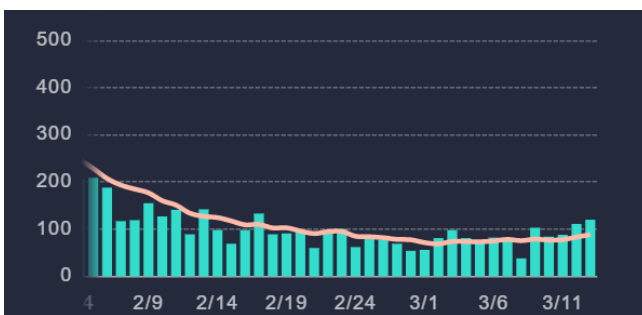
Critical Illness (National)



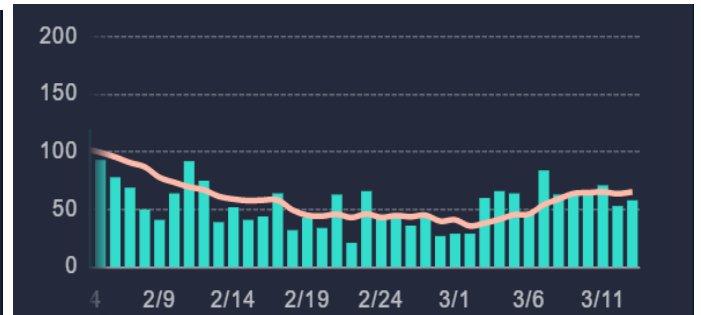
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Large urban areas outside of Tokyo all report rising case numbers reflecting a rebound from the previous improvements of 2 weeks ago. While small increases are seen in Osaka and Fukuoka, more robust increases in viral transmission can be appreciated in Hokkaido, which has seen something of a leveling off in the last week. Somewhat more concerning is the sharper upward trend in Hyogo, largely driven by the city of Kobe, which reports an R_{eff} of 1.3 as of yesterday. It may be important to interpret this growth in the context of increasing proportional prevalence of viral variants (mostly B117 UK variant), reported per MHLW data to have grown from 4.6% by Feb 4 2021 to 10.5% by Feb 11 2021 and to 15.2% by Feb 18 2021. The upward curve is similar to that of Saitama (see graph in next section), which is also reported to have a relatively higher proportion of variants compared to neighboring prefectures.

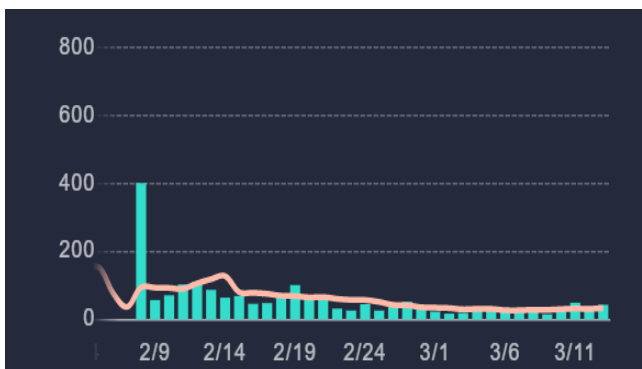
Osaka (R 1.11)



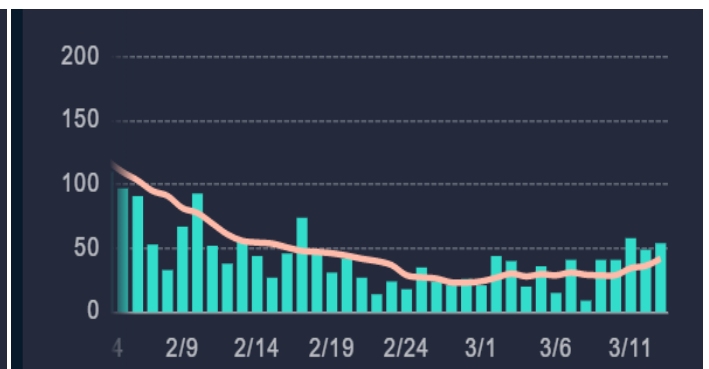
Hokkaido (R 1.07)



Fukuoka (R 1.22)



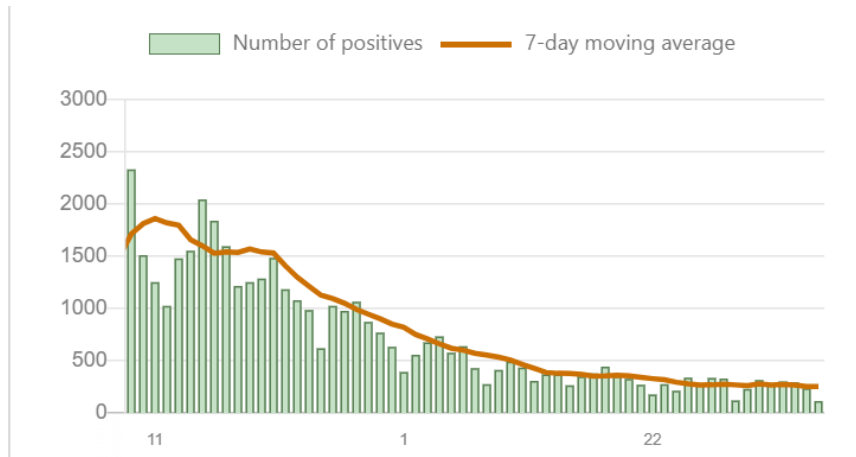
Hyogo (R. 1.23)



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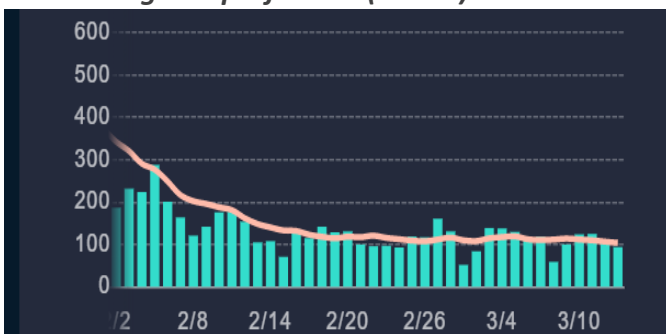
Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 1.07)

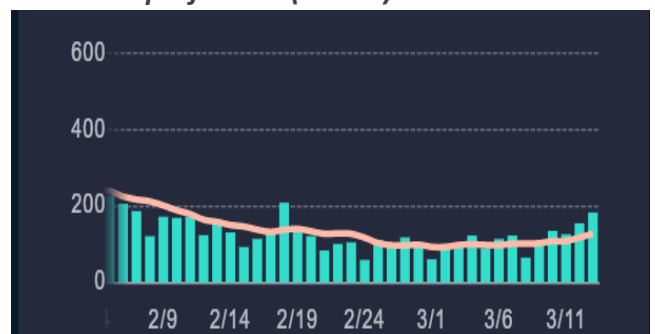


Tokyo continues to see relatively flat virus epidemiology as it enters its final week of state of emergency measures. With just 175 new cases recorded today (and less than 1000 nationwide) there is overall optimism that Tokyo and Kanto's emergency measures are on track to be lifted by 21 Mar 2021. It should be noted that Tokyo has not met Governor Koike's stated goal of 70% fewer cases than the week prior, nor has it met the criterion of achieving a seven-day average of 140 cases per day (which currently stands at 288, where it has roughly remained since 25 Feb 2021).

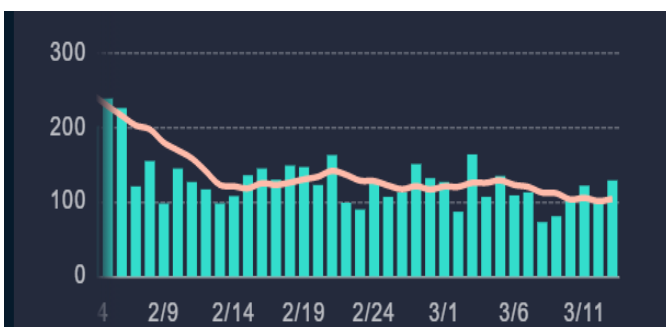
Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.95)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.13)



Chiba prefecture (R 0.90)



Despite unremarkable change in Tokyo, neighboring prefectures in the Kanto area continue to improve (most notably in Kanagawa and Chiba), likely influencing decision-makers' impression of overall optimism leading to a probable removal of emergency measures. As noted above, heightened vigilance of viral spread in

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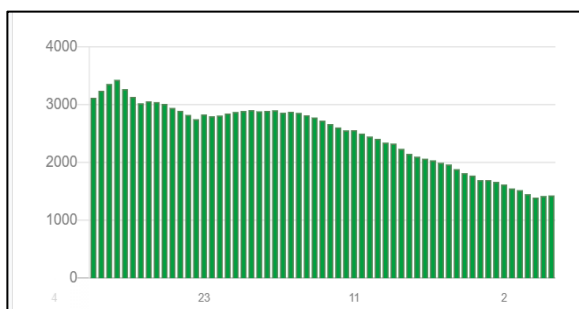
Saitama, given reports of P.1 Brazil variant in the area, is warranted.

NOTE: It is worth mentioning that R_{eff} numbers are, like daily stock market crests and dips, fairly fickle and unpredictable. To wit, Saitama's R_{eff} was 1.21 yesterday, falling to 1.13 today. Even more dramatic, Hokkaido's R_{eff} fell from 1.28 to just 1.07 today. Daily R_{eff} statistics looked at outside of the overall R trend may be misleading. When used for prognostic guidance, R_{eff} statistic should be analysed holistically, rather than in daily isolation.

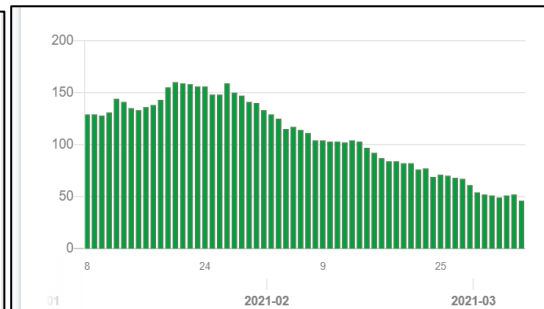
Hospital Care in Tokyo

Over the past week hospital capacity available for COVID 19 patients has been further expanded from 5,000 to 5048 beds, despite a continuing decrease in number of patients requiring hospital care. An additional 32 ICU beds have also been added to provisions in Tokyo, for a total of 332 beds for those requiring critical care. Unchanged from previous weeks, 3,290 beds remain available in hotels for patients who require admission to limit contagion. Tokyo Metropolitan Government report 1270 patients requiring routine level of care in hospital, for a bed occupancy of 25%, and 42 persons requiring critical care, for an ICU bed occupancy of 12.7%.

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

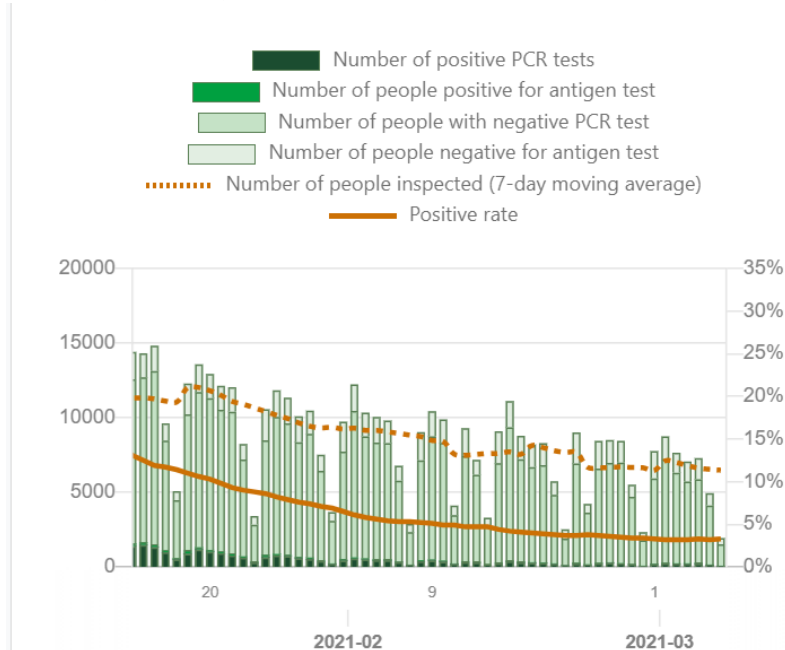


***Patients Requiring Intensive Care,
Tokyo***



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Testing in Tokyo



Test numbers continue to decline, with roughly 200 fewer tests being conducted on average this week compared to last week, for a 7-day moving average of roughly 6642 tests performed daily. The rate of positive test results has continued to show gradual declines from 3.8% and hovering from 3.3% to 3.5% today.

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccination of healthcare workers, exclusively at large front-line hospitals and multispecialty clinics, continues uninterrupted into this week with more than 181,184 persons having received the vaccine by 11 Mar 2021 and administration of 448 second doses, which began several days ago. This remains a small dent in the national goal of vaccinating some 4.8 million persons working in a health-related field. Nonetheless, GOJ reports that plans for an April 12 rollout to cover Japan's 36 million elderly residents (aged 65 or above) remains on track, with 2000 first-round doses each being allocated to Tokyo, Osaka, and Kanagawa. 100 million doses are anticipated to arrive in country between May and June 2021. In Tokyo, it has been reported that Setagaya will be the first ward to receive vaccine, based on size and population of elderly residents.

Pfizer's vaccine continues to be the only vaccine approved for use in Japan, as Moderna's application, submitted by Takeda on 05 Mar 2021 remains stuck on regulators' desks.

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References and Resources

Further 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>

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/>

<https://www.stopcovid19.jp/#Tokyo>

Resources

How to get help if you suspect that you have COVID19 (Tokyo residents)

<https://stopcovid19.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/flow>

FAQ: How foreign residents can get coronavirus vaccinations in Japan

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210212/p2a/00m/0na/046000c>