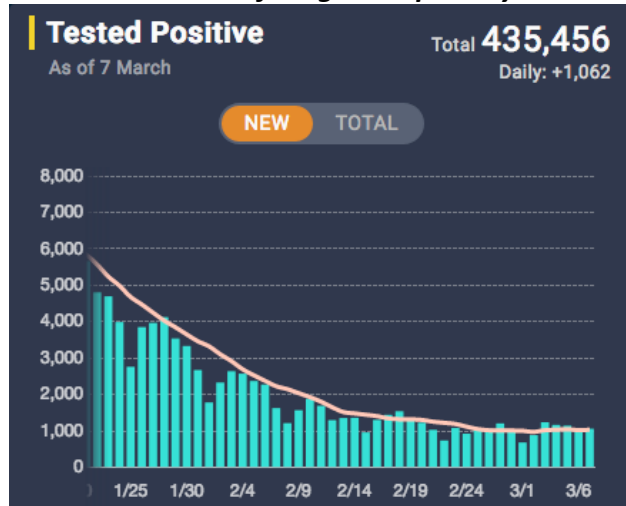


Situation report – COVID19; Japan 8st of March 2021

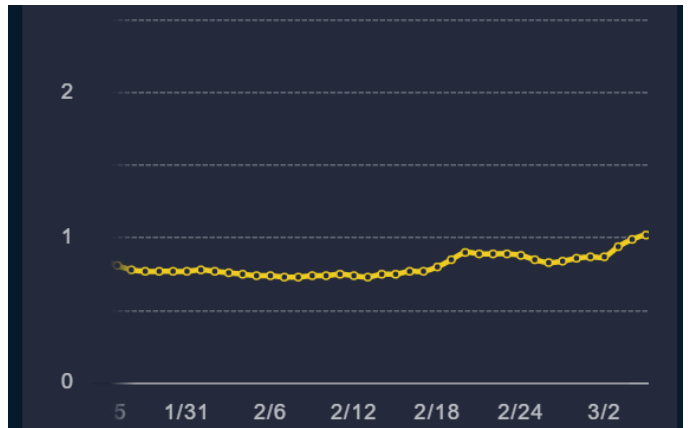
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

National number of diagnoses per day

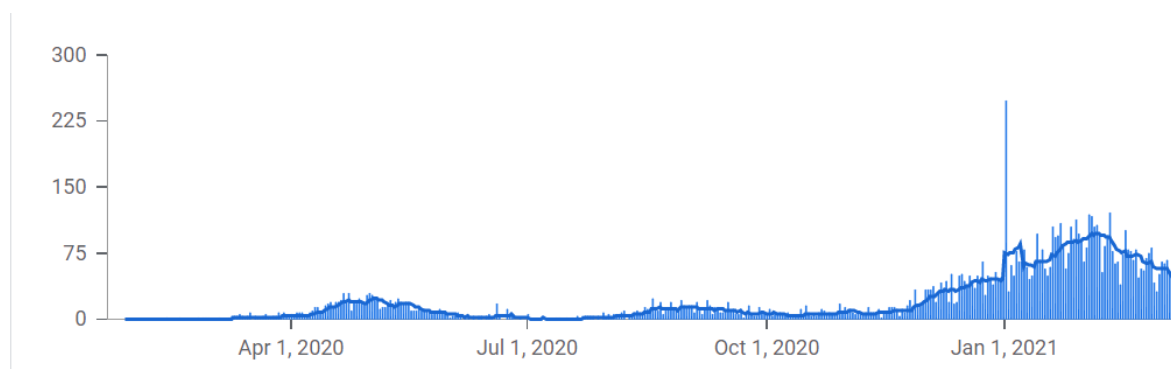


National Reproduction Number (R_{eff} 1.02)



Infections across the country this week are largely summed up in a single word: plateau. Infections, both nationally and in many local areas, have appeared to reach a horizontal slope on epidemiology curves. Nationally, the current equilibrium is roughly estimated at about 1000 new cases per day over the last 10-14 days. This `steady state` is also reflected in R_{eff} statistics hovering around 1 in most locales. Supporting data for overall improvement includes continued falls in mortality. Discharges from critical care service have fallen over the last 3 weeks, though this is likely due to few numbers of patients requiring critical care services.

Mortality (National)

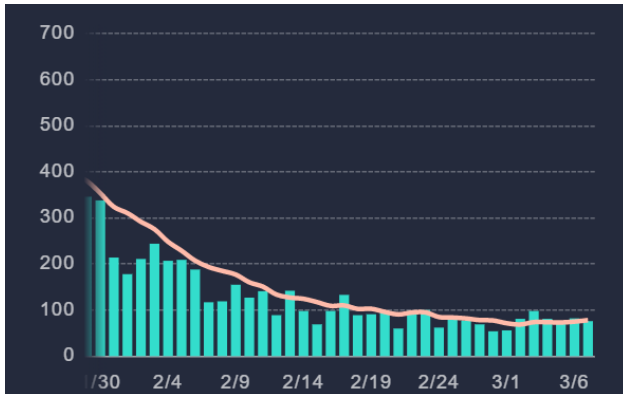


Nonetheless, vigilance is warranted looking towards the future. While state of emergency measures have been lifted from Osaka, Hyogo, Kyoto, Aichi, Gifu, and Fukuoka as of last week, with R_{eff} remaining near or under 1 for many of these prefectures, Hokkaido has seen an increase in virus transmission, with an R_{eff} rising recently to 1.24, after enjoying at least 6 weeks under 1. Hokkaido has proven numerous times over the last year to be Japan's "canary in the coalmine," with waves in Sapporo preceding those in the rest of the country

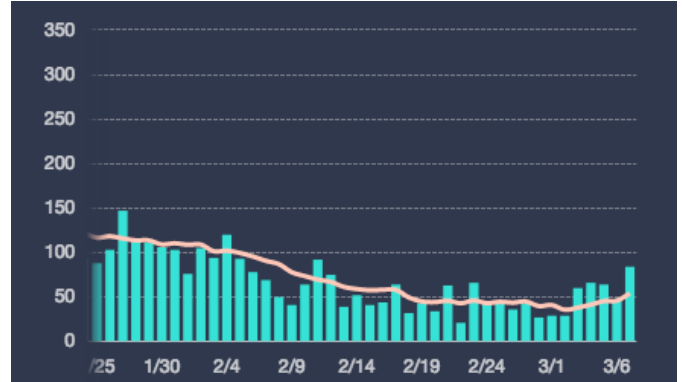
Situation report – COVID19; Japan 8st of March 2021

by weeks to months. In addition, some areas that have recently had their state of emergency lifted, such Hyogo, continue to see rising R_{eff} values (1.23). The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported over the weekend that roughly 10% of viral PCR isolates from the city of Kobe (in Hyogo Prefecture) were a viral variant; the anticipated spread of more highly transmissible virus has the potential to make current lulls in spread short-lived. Ministry of Health is releasing only very limited data on variants in Japan and is currently not summarizing prefectural-level data for public consumption; the last data they have made available may be found here (data from December): https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_15829.html.

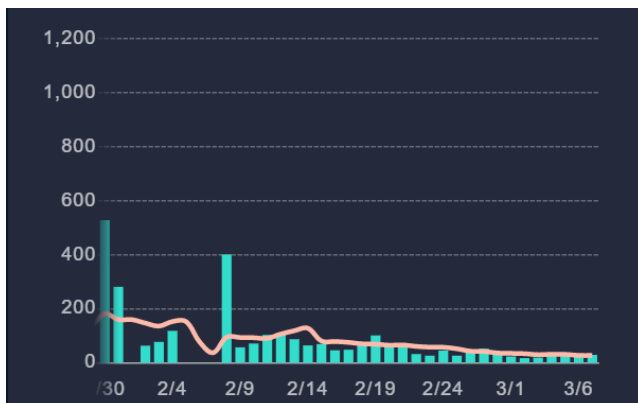
Osaka (R 1.01)



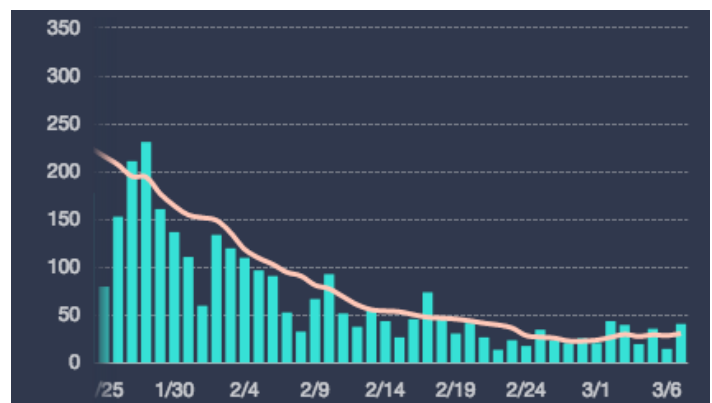
Hokkaido (R 1.24)



Fukuoka (R 0.81)

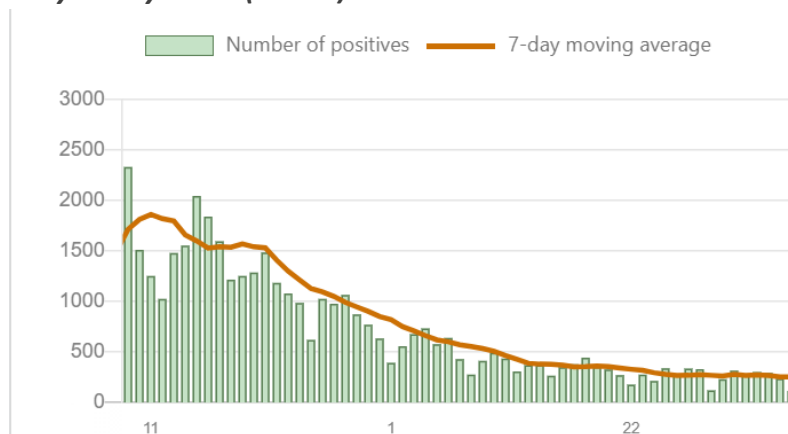


Hyogo (R 1.23)



Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 0.94)

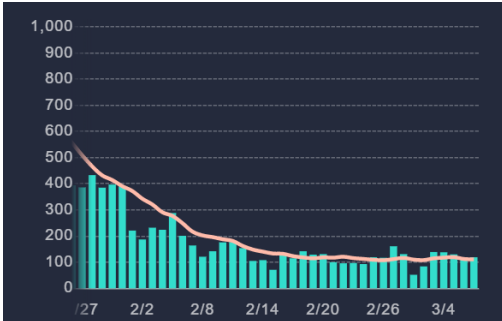


Tokyo and Kanagawa continues to enjoy slight but sustained improvements in new virus cases, despite Tokyo not meeting a seven-day average mark of 140 cases per day required for lifting of Kanto's state

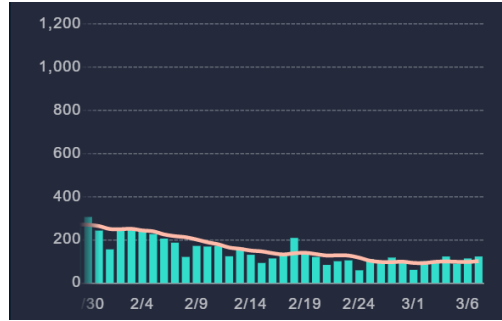
Situation report – COVID19; Japan 8st of March 2021

of emergency (current average is 254 cases per day). Viral transmission in other prefectures in the Kanto area remains flat. Should this slight improvement be sustained, GOJ predicts lifting Kanto state of emergency measures on Mar 21 2021.

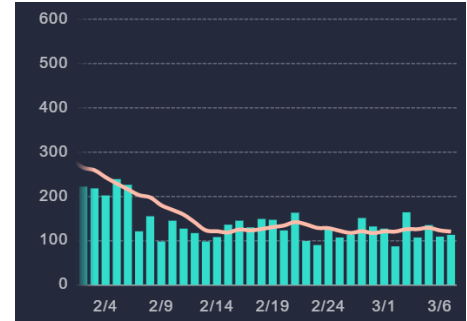
Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.97)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.02)

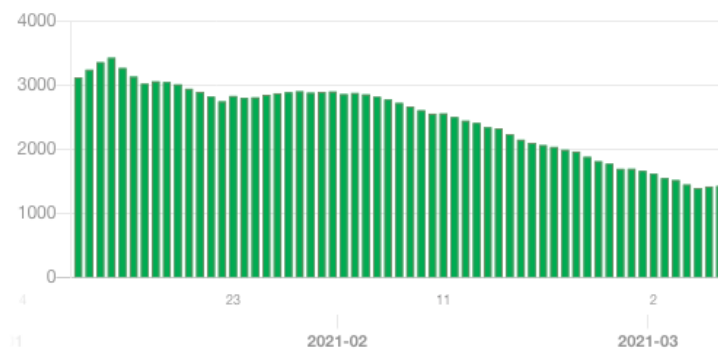


Chiba prefecture (R1.02)



Hospital Care in Tokyo

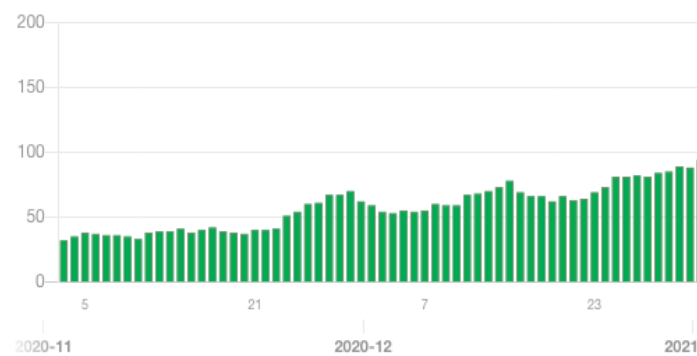
Patients requiring hospitalization in Tokyo



Over the past week hospital capacity available for COVID 19 patients has remained unchanged at 5,000 routine care COVID beds, 3,290 hotel COVID beds, and 330 critical care beds, despite steady falls in hospitalization, a plateau in which has been reached this week. Of note, ICU patients in Tokyo have fallen to less than 50 for the

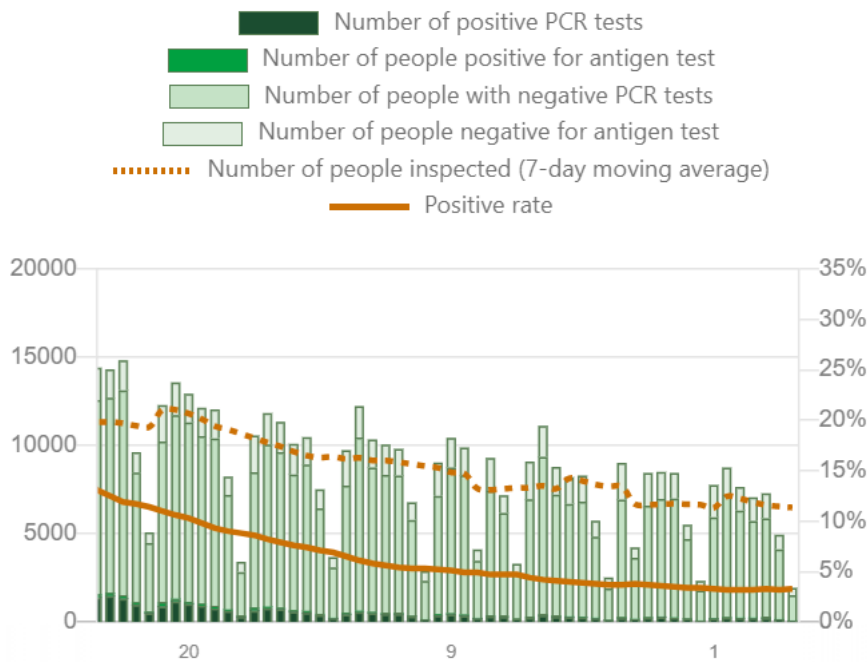
first time since Nov 23 2020, though patients with serious symptoms have risen slightly over the last week.

Patients with serious symptoms in Tokyo



Situation report – COVID19; Japan 8th of March 2021

Testing in Tokyo



Numbers of tests in Tokyo have remained flat over the last 2 weeks, after a period of slow decline over the previous month. The rate of positive test results has also remained flat at 3.3%. Testing capacity in hospitals and some clinics remains adequate. Of note, GOJ has now approved quantitative (not qualitative!) antigen test methods for COVID screening, in addition to PCR and LAMP molecular methods. Molecular methods remain the gold standard for testing of symptomatic patients.

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccination of healthcare workers continues throughout Japan with an estimated 46,500 providers having received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as of yesterday. News reports suggest that this is slower than anticipated, given supply problems and logistical issues, compared to rollouts in other neighboring Asian countries. Nonetheless, immunizations for those older than 65 are still slated to begin on April 12, with immunization for those with high risk conditions, followed by general public, thereafter.

Only Pfizer's vaccine is approved for use in Japan; both Moderna and Astra Zeneca vaccines are currently under review by Japan's PMDA, and an answer on approval is expected by late next week.

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

Situation report – COVID19; Japan 8st of March 2021

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>