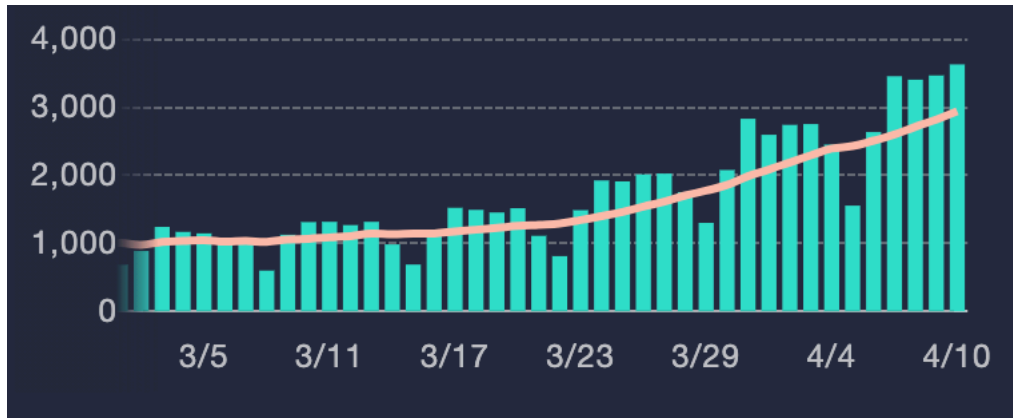


Situation report – COVID19; Japan 12th of April 2021

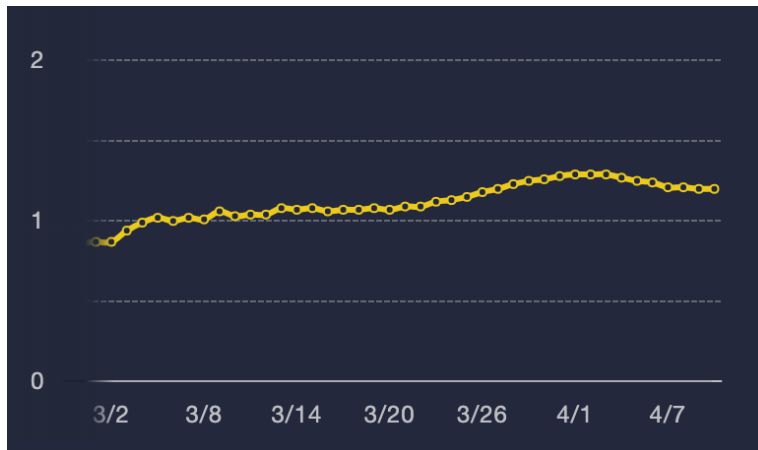
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



National Effective Reproduction Number (R 1.20)



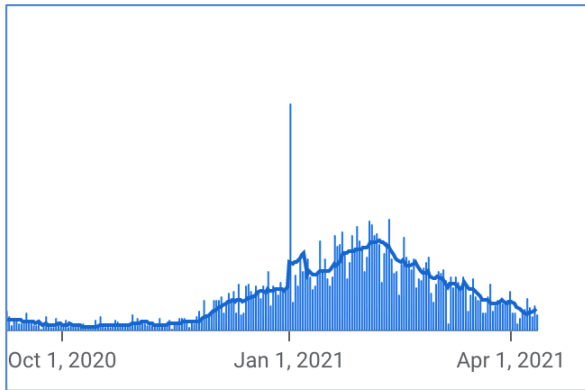
COVID numbers continue to rise nationwide as we enter the first full week of what is widely considered a 4th wave of infection. The national R_{eff} number, however, has not risen precipitously, actually decreasing slightly from 1.29 last week to 1.20 this week. This relatively steady R_{eff} number (between 1 and 1.5) corroborates the relatively *linear*, rather than exponential, increase in case

positive numbers that we have been seeing in Japan over the last several weeks.

The national R_{eff} statistic continues to largely reflect increasing transmission in the Kansai area—mostly Osaka, which experienced record-breaking case numbers last week, as well as surrounding prefectures (Kyoto, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama, Okayama) for which R_{eff} are all approaching or passing 1.5. Growth is also being seen among prefectures on the Japan Sea coast (Toyama, Ishikawa) and on Shikoku (Tokushima, Kochi). Conversely, R_{eff} statistics for areas that saw a large increase in infections 2+ weeks ago (Miyagi, Yamagata, Mie) have fallen to 1 or below, while prefectures that noted large increases last week (ex. Ehime, Yamanashi) are beginning to fall back towards 1. This may be the effect of *man'en boushi* (“mambou,” targeted infection prevention policies) beginning to be rolled out in various prefectures. These more targeted restrictions, which seek to better identify higher risk businesses for curtailment/closure of activities, does not appear to have been highly preventive in Osaka, however, where it has been in place for several weeks. I suspect that local improvements in

Situation report – COVID19; Japan 12th of April 2021

areas with slowing/decreasing transmission more probably reflect normal self-driven changes in public behavior--people are less prone to leave their homes in areas with reported high disease numbers.



Mortality (National)

Despite rises associated with the 4th wave, cases of critical illness and deaths remain low, both on national and prefectural levels. Though cases began rising almost 1 month ago, deaths continue to fall nationwide. Similarly, while critically ill patients are now increasing to an average of about 7 new ICU cases per day, this increase comes several weeks later than expected, based on the beginning of rising case numbers.

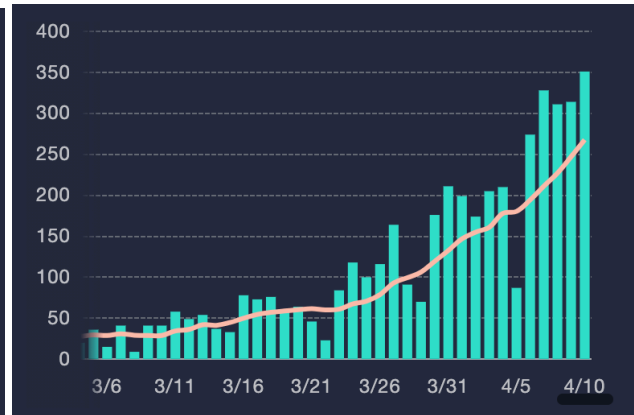
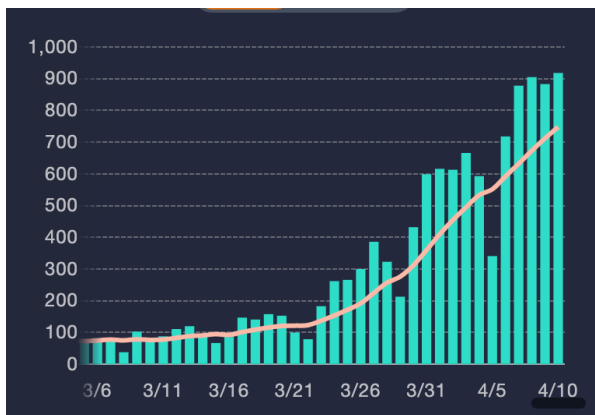
Together, this may mean that Japan's healthcare facilities are better equipped at identifying and treating high-risk patients earlier, thus staving off ICU visits for all but the most critically ill patients who are refractory to early interventions.

Critical Illness (National)



Osaka (R 1.34)

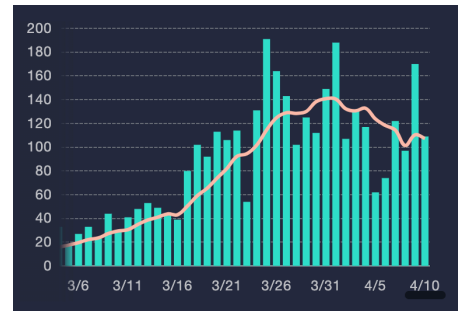
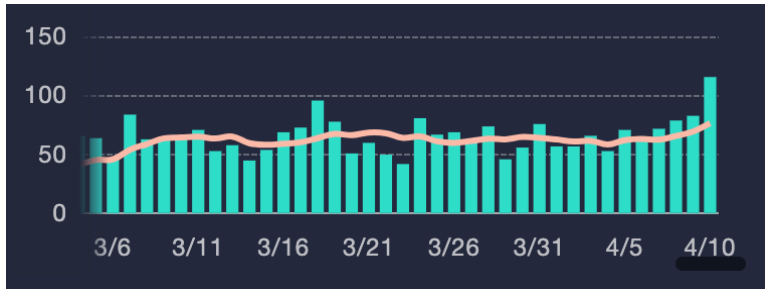
Hyogo (R 1.44)



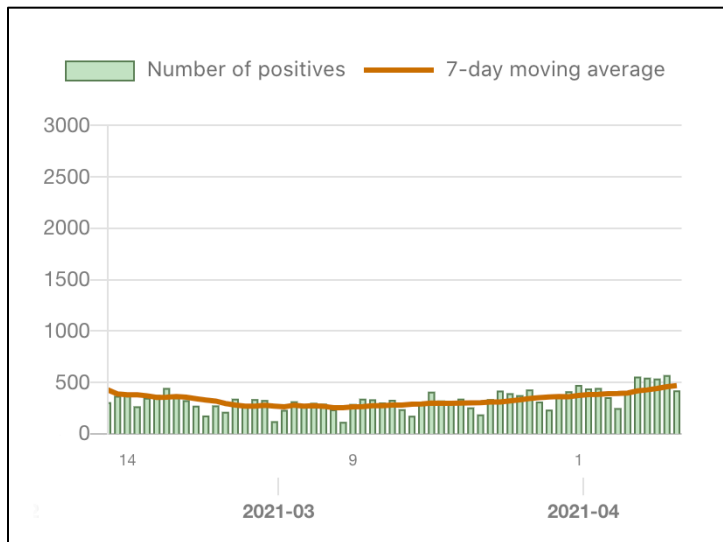
Hokkaido (R 1.17)

Miyagi (R 0.87)

Situation report – COVID19; Japan 12th of April 2021



Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

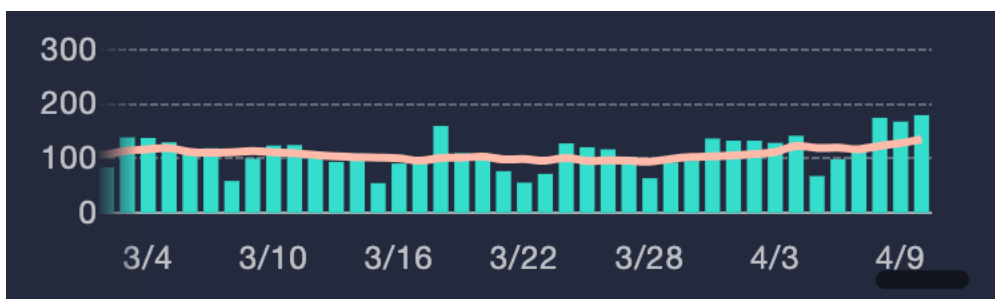


Tokyo daily cases (R 1.14)

Disease trajectories in Tokyo remain surprisingly flat, the metropolis' R_{eff} at just 1.14. Surrounding prefectures also participating in Tokyo-area *mambou* restrictions have similarly remained flat. As such, Tokyo Metropolitan Government has not felt the need to increase hospital beds, either routine or ICU, in the last several weeks, despite national virus expansion. Hospitals in Tokyo remain well-staffed and well-equipped.

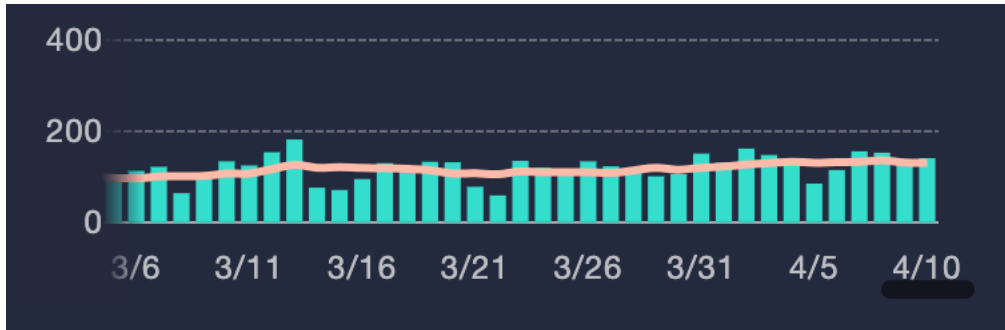
Speaking to frontline staff at several Tokyo-area hospitals, there is much less angst and hand-wringing regarding this most recent virus increase, most likely due to the successful delivery and administration of vaccine to frontline workers in Tokyo.

Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.15)

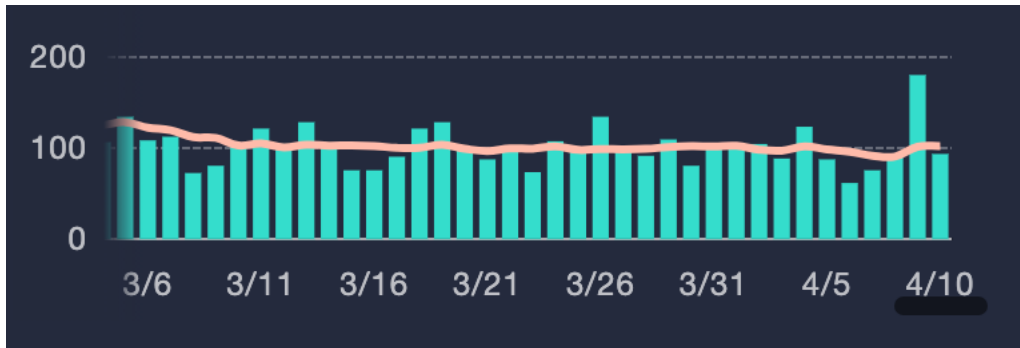


Saitama prefecture (R 1.00)

Situation report – COVID19; Japan 12th of April 2021



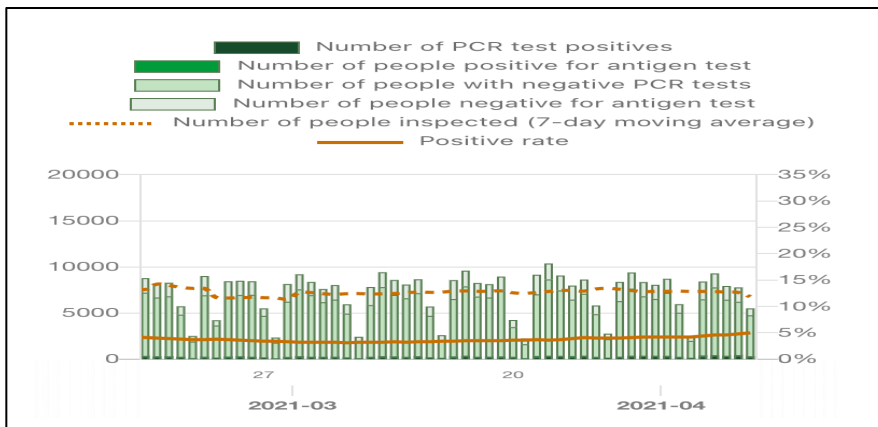
Chiba prefecture (R 1.04)



Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Hospital capacity available for COVID 19 patients in Tokyo remains unchanged at 5048 routine care beds and 332 critical care beds. 3,290 beds remain available in hotels for patients who require admission to limit contagion. 7-day average number of tests in Tokyo has increased over the last week, from 6500 daily tests last week to just over 7000 daily tests this week. Rate of test positivity has risen from 4.3% to 5.1% today.

Number of Tests (Tokyo)



COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Situation report – COVID19; Japan 12th of April 2021

Japan continues to trail most of the developed world in vaccinations. As of late last week, 1.1 million healthcare workers had received at least one dose of Pfizer vaccine, towards a goal of 4.8 million healthcare-associated persons. Nonetheless, the smoothness of this rollout and lack of major complications or side effects associated with vaccine has given the Health Ministry enough confidence to begin vaccination for elderly residents of Japan (>65 or >75 years old depending on municipal rules and definitions) on Monday Apr 12. On Monday, roughly 1100 elderly persons received vaccines in 39 of Japan's 45 prefectures, with no major complications reported. Japan has a goal to vaccinate 36 million elderly (29% of Japan's national population).

As noted before, a large amount of variability in vaccine scheduling, availability, and administration from ward to ward, and prefecture to prefecture is expected. For example, in Shibuya ward, vaccines will begin with those >75 years old on Apr 12, with those >65 years old eligible to receive vaccine on or after Apr 26. In Setagaya ward, residents >65 will begin receiving eligibility postcards from Apr 12. For details, please refer to your ward office website or inquire with your ward public health desk. Note that several ward websites offer automated page translation, and Google Chrome browser offers in-app translation functionality as well.

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>