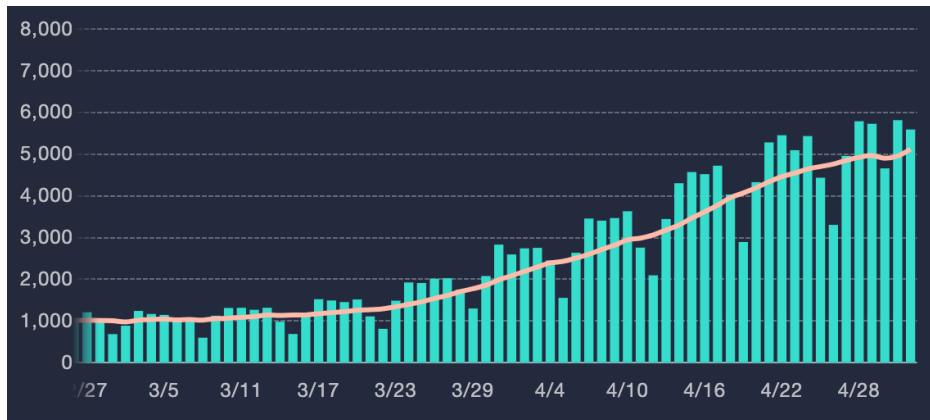


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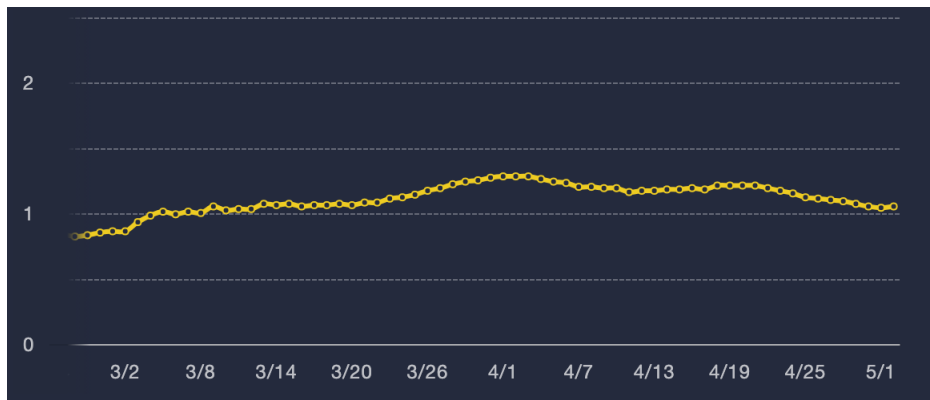
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



National R_{eff} (R 1.06)



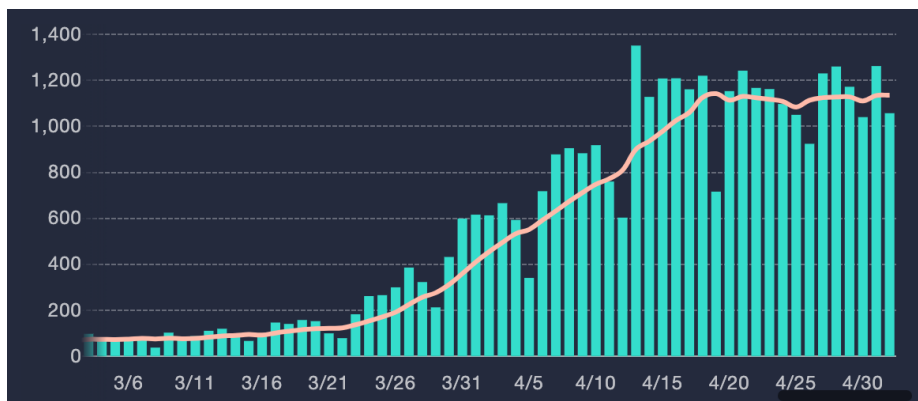
The current state of emergency has now run for nine days and national case numbers are showing early signs of stabilizing though have yet to fall, with the national effective reproduction rate (R_{eff}) dropping but remaining over 1.0. The effectiveness of current measures will most likely be apparent only a few days after the end of the Golden Week holiday period. With fewer people being tested on national holidays, an increase in reported new cases in the week after the holiday period is possible as was the case after the new year holiday in early January. Based on experience in managing previous waves of infection, the government is unlikely to end the state of emergency without a minimum of 14 days of falling infection numbers. Current emergency measures are due to remain in place until the 11th of May, though an extension beyond this in some if not all areas seems likely.

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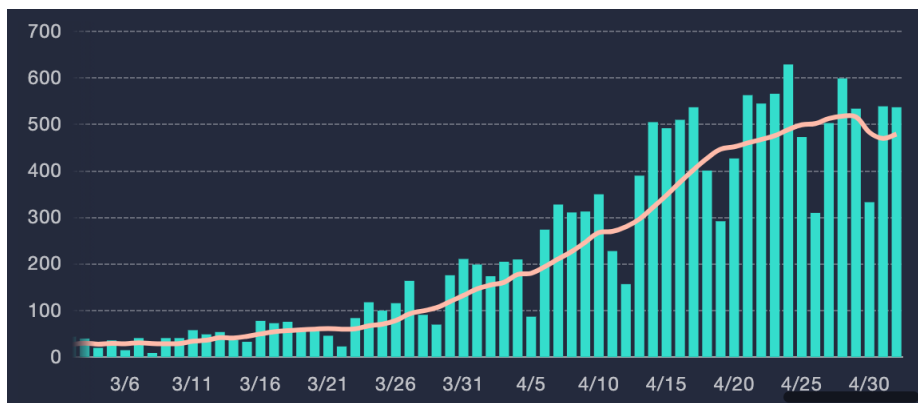
Regional Situation in Japan (excluding Tokyo region)

Although national case numbers have stabilized, there is a high degree of regional variation. *Manbo* restrictions followed by a state of emergency have resulted in case numbers levelling in the key parts of Kansai (Osaka and Hyogo), though as yet a sustained fall in new infections has not been demonstrated. With a typical delay in 10-14 days before new restrictions can be expected to result in a reduction in case numbers, this stabilization is likely a result of the milder *Manbo* restrictions and it is to be hoped that a clear fall in new cases will be seen in due course.

Osaka (R 1.03)



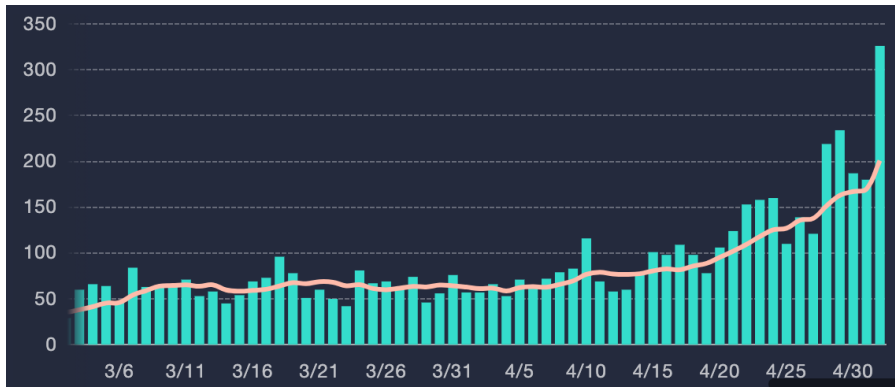
Hyogo (R 0.97)



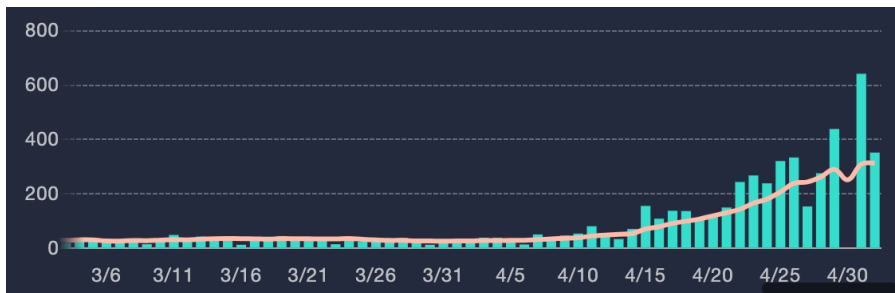
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Conversely, cases are rising relatively rapidly in regions which the fourth wave affected later – notably Hokkaido and Fukuoka which are not presently subject to a state of emergency. Measures to limit restaurant hours and the serving of alcohol will come into effect in the latter from Thursday (6th of May), though.

Hokkaido (R 1.39)

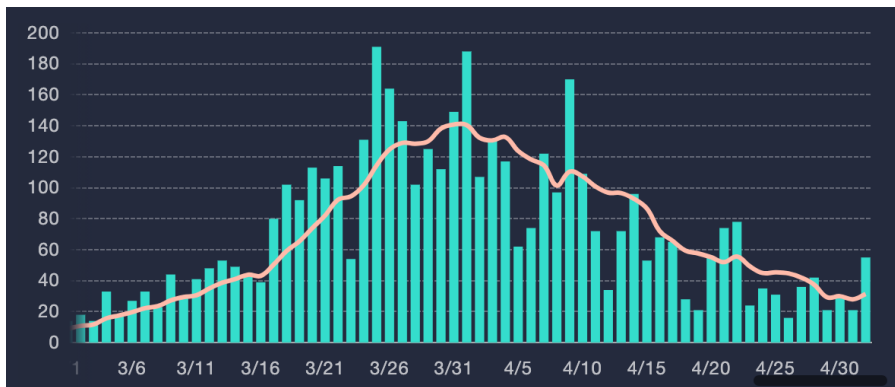


Fukuoka (R 1.35)



Miyagi's state of emergency continues but as case numbers have fallen significantly over the past month, may be allowed to expire on the 11th.

Miyagi (R 0.77)



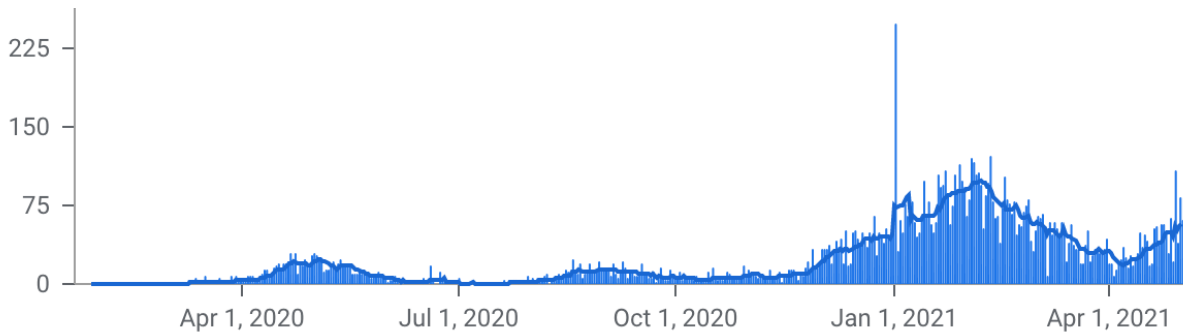
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Critical Illness (Nationwide)



Rates of critical illness and mortality numbers continue to rise gradually, at a level consistent with the background rates of new infections. Regardless of the effectiveness of emergency measures this rise is very likely that this trend will persist for the next two weeks or longer.

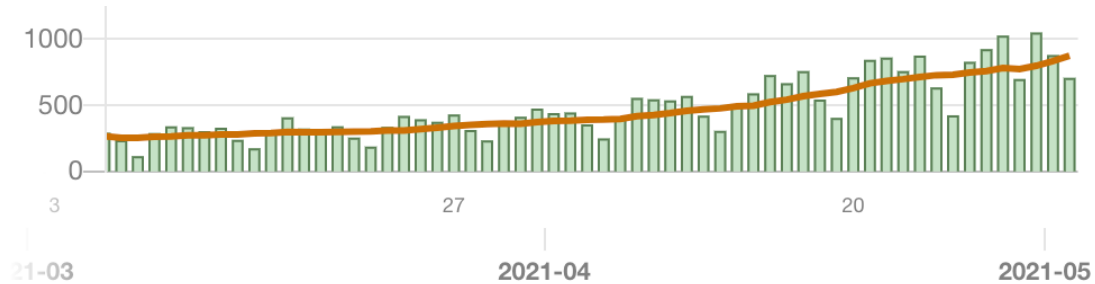
Mortality (Nationwide)



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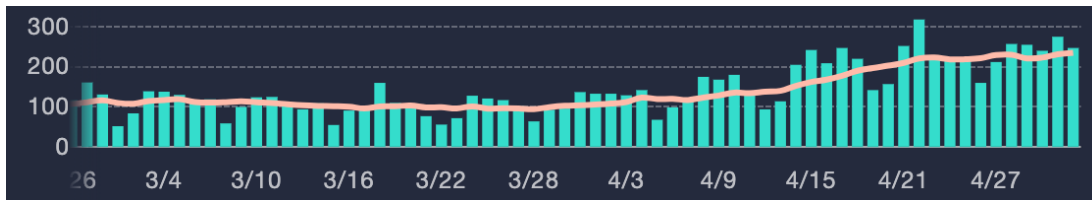
Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 1.1)

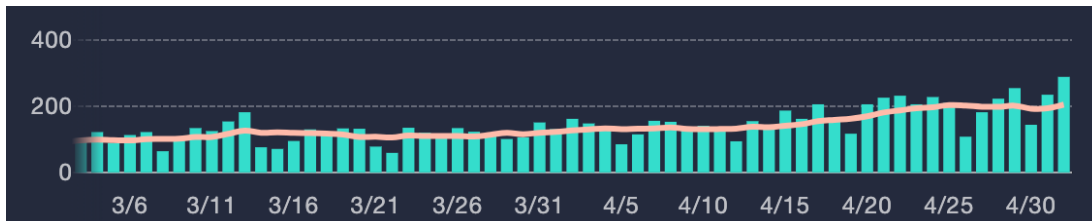


The gradual rise in daily new infections continues unabated in the capital, as yet with no discernible reduction as a consequence of emergency measures. Similarly, infections are rising subtly in the surrounding prefectures.

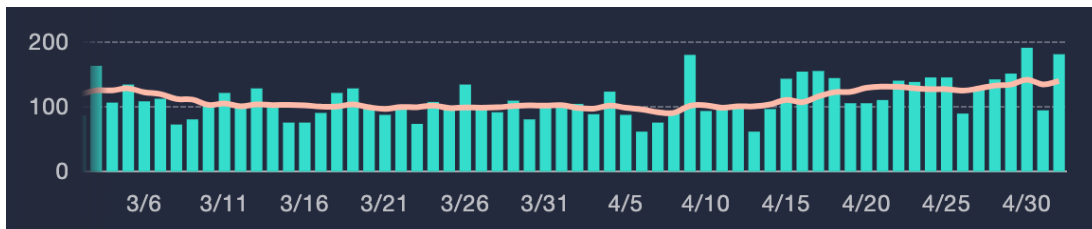
Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.05)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.01)



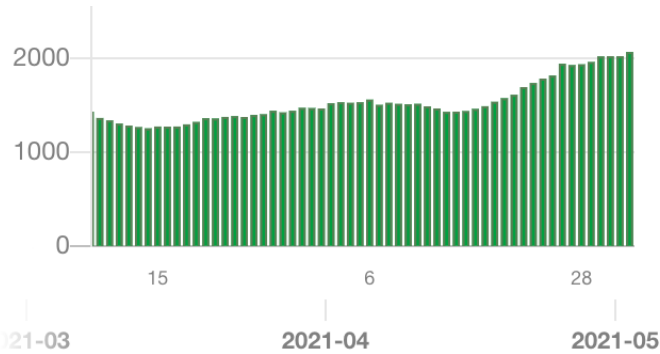
Chiba prefecture (R 1.07)



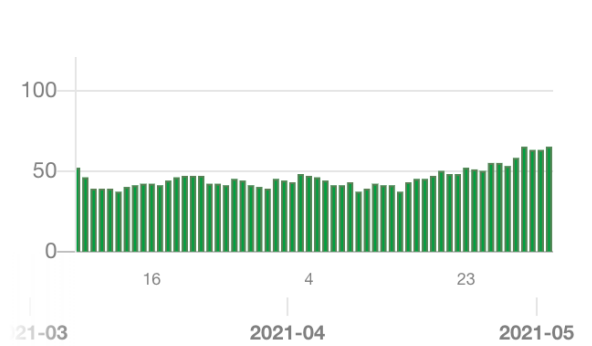
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients



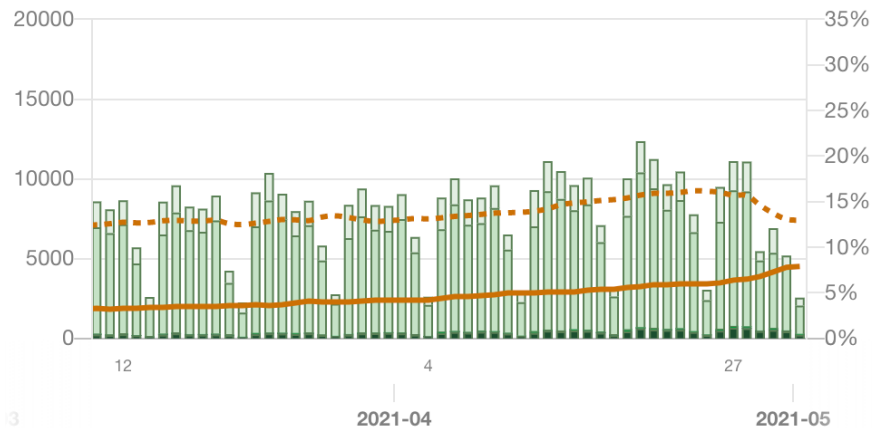
Number of critically ill patients



Although hospitalizations have increased, bed utilization in the capital remains comfortably within the allocated resources. Presently 5,594 hospital beds are allocated to COVID 19 patients, of which 2,062 are occupied.

Similarly, utilization of critical care capacity is low, with 65 of 373 intensive care beds currently occupied.

Testing for COVID 19

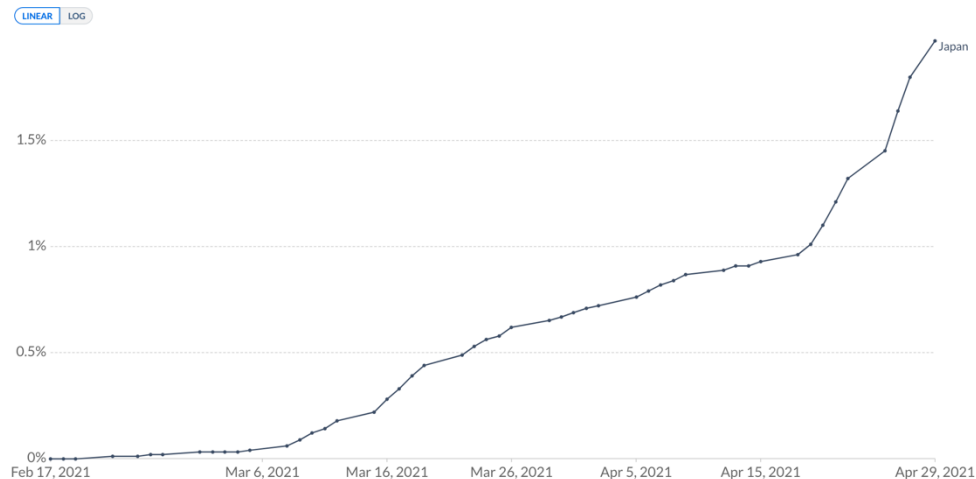


As seen previously, significantly fewer tests have been conducted over the golden week holiday period, with approximately half of the typical number of tests being reported on Thursday and Friday of last week. Against this background, though, the proportion of positive results continues to rise and now stands at 7.9%.

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COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



The pace of vaccination accelerated during the second half of April, though coverage remains at below 2% of the population and to date is largely confined to healthcare workers. Presently only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for use in Japan, though Moderna's vaccine has already been imported into the country in anticipation of a favorable announcement from the health ministry, who have committed to releasing a decision on emergency use on the 20th of May.

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 and Resources

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>

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/special/coronavirus/vaccine/progress/> **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>