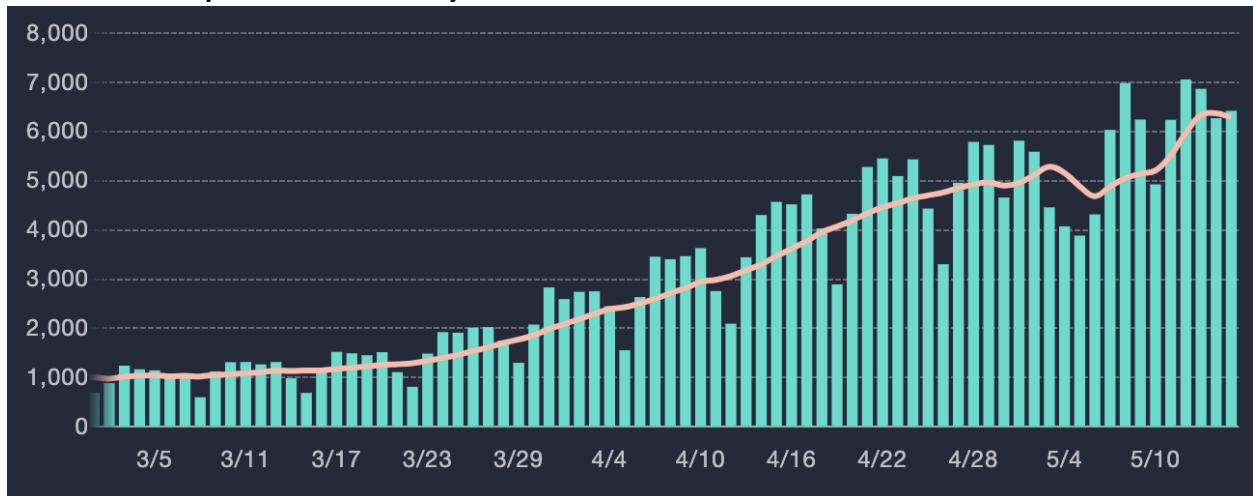


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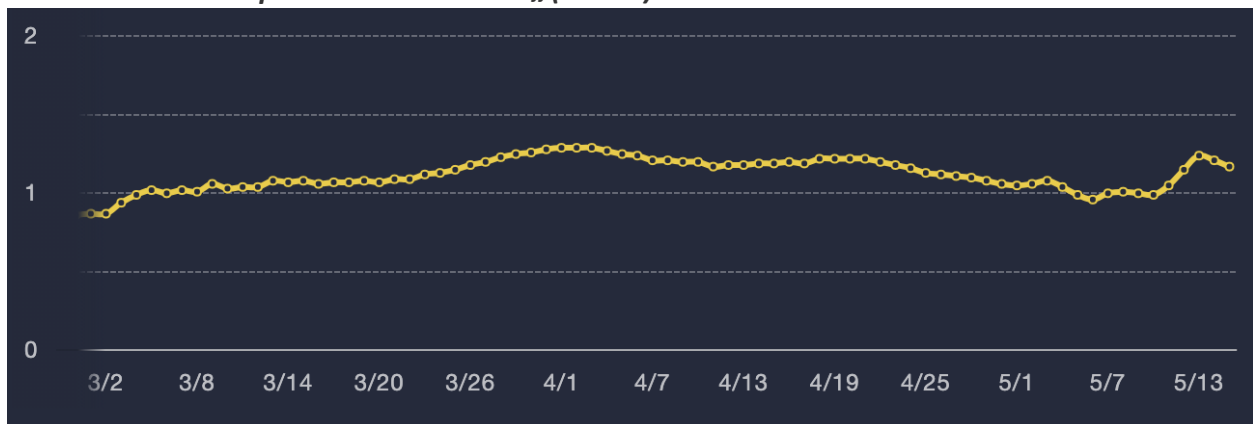
Confidential – for internal circulation only, not for release to outside parties without the prior consent of the author. This document represents the opinion of the author and does not constitute the provision of medical care. Readers with concerns over their individual health should contact their physician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

Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



National Reproduction Rate - R_{eff} (R 1.14)



National 7-day average rates of daily infections have risen to over 6,000 and now equal the levels seen at the peak of the third wave in early January. Some of this increase may be a consequence of delays in diagnosis and reporting over the golden week holiday period. However, rates of infection are clearly surging in several parts of the country.

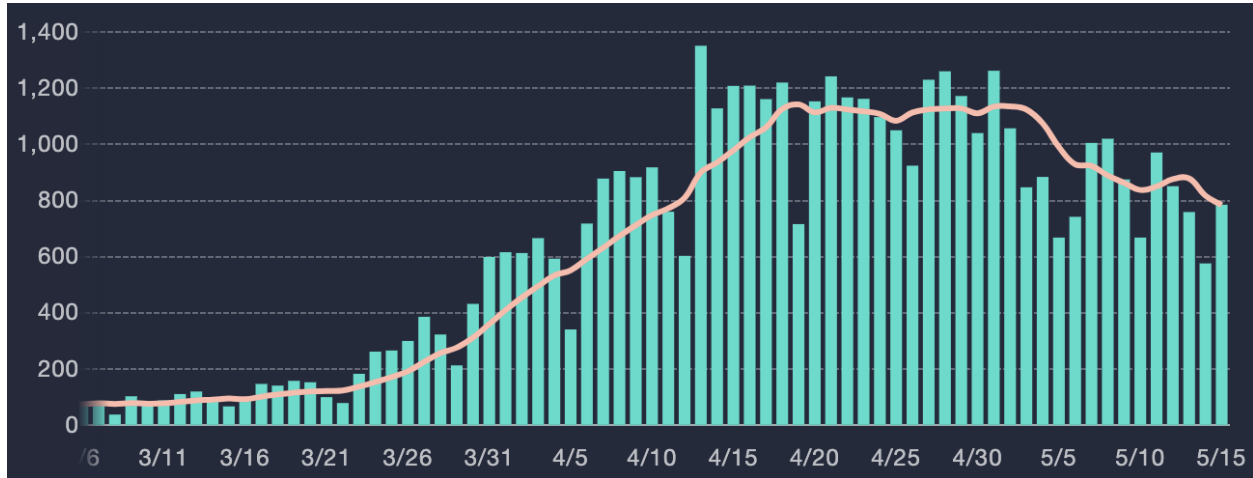
Several regions which were placed under priority prevention measures in recent weeks are now under a state of emergency. Aichi (Nagoya) and Fukuoka prefectures both experienced this escalation on the 12th of May and three other regions (Hokkaido, Okayama and Hiroshima) were added to the list on the 16th of May, for a total of nine regions in total. Ten further regions are currently under primary preventative measures, with Gunma, Ishikawa and Kumamoto being added on the 16th of May.

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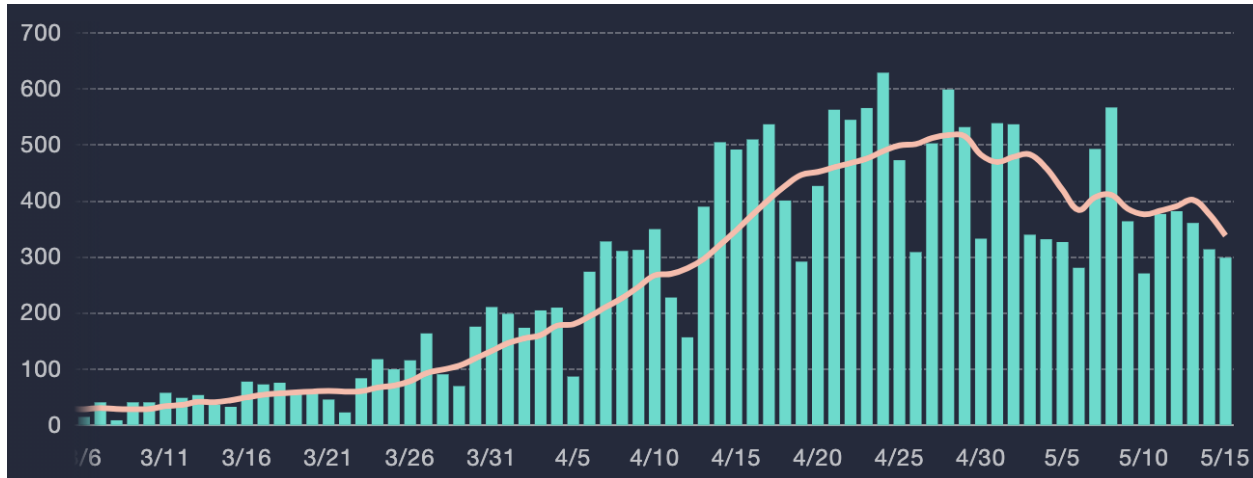
Regional Situation in Japan - Kansai

Daily diagnoses continue to decline gradually in Osaka and neighboring Hyogo prefecture. Primary preventative measures levelled infections and the state of emergency has brought about a gradual easing of the burden of infection. Nevertheless, an early exit from emergency measures (due to expire at the end of the month) appears unlikely.

Osaka (R 0.9)

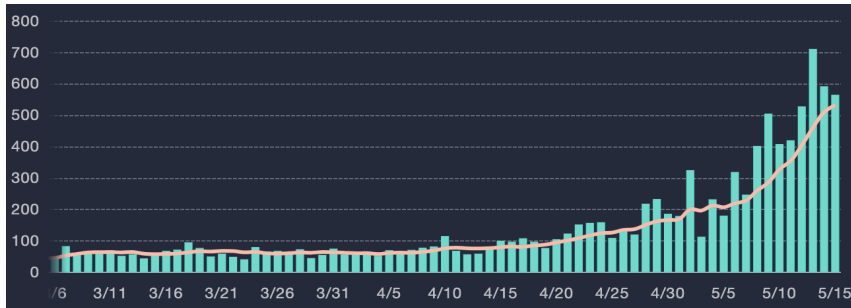


Hyogo (R 0.88)

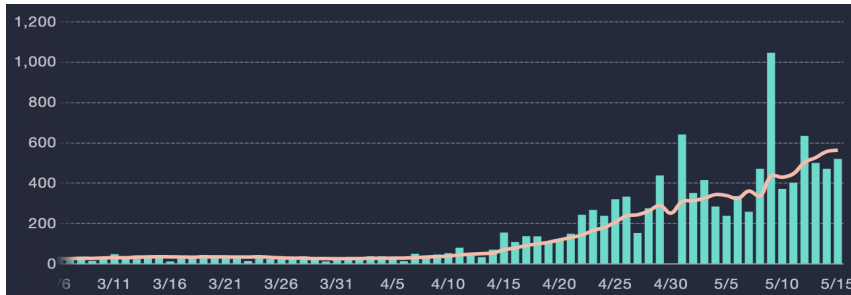


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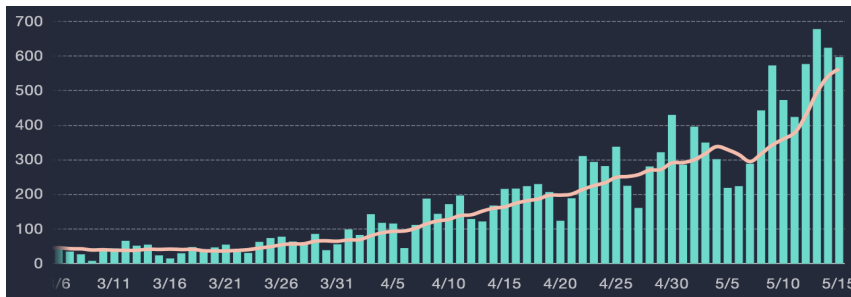
Hokkaido (R 1.56)



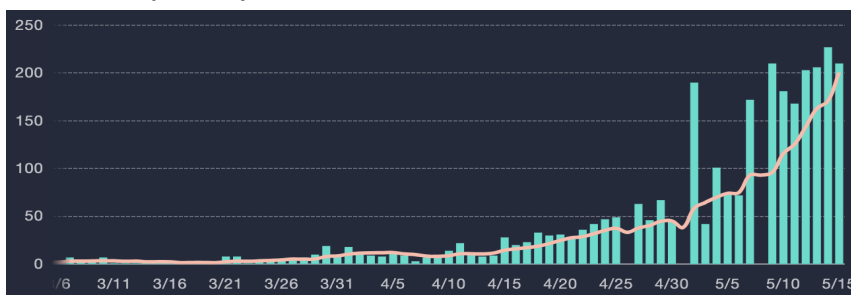
Fukuoka (R 1.08)



Aichi (R 1.43)



Hiroshima (R 1.72)

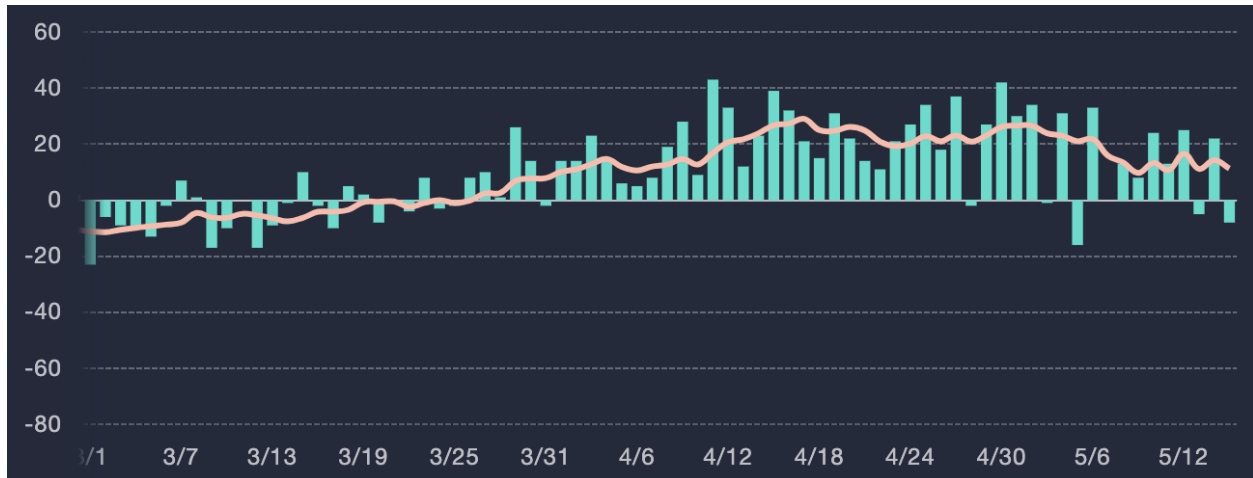


In several areas case numbers are surging at a concerning rate, the four prefectures above all now experiencing higher levels of infection than seen in any previous wave. Dissemination of N501Y variant COVID-19 from Kansai is a likely driver of this and may make controlling the pandemic increasingly challenging.

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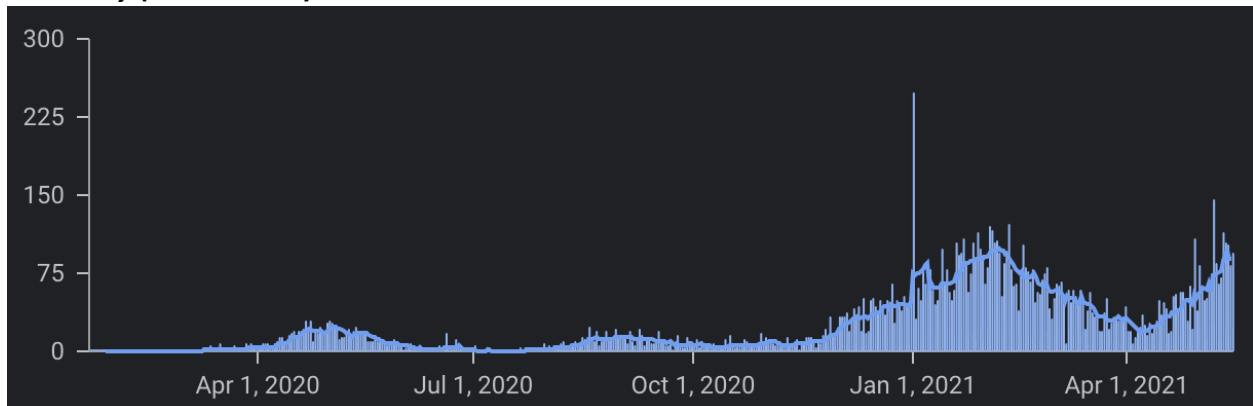
Hiroshima has responded by making PCR tests available to asymptomatic individuals free of charge, though demand for this service may result in access problems as appointments are required.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- day by day change



The past two months have seen the population of critically ill patients rise by almost 300%, from 325 in mid-March to 1,227 today.

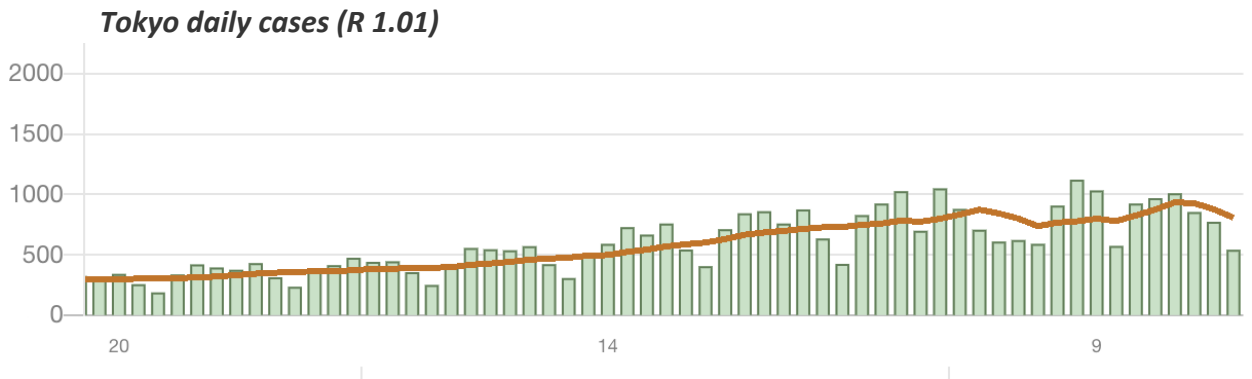
Mortality (Nationwide)



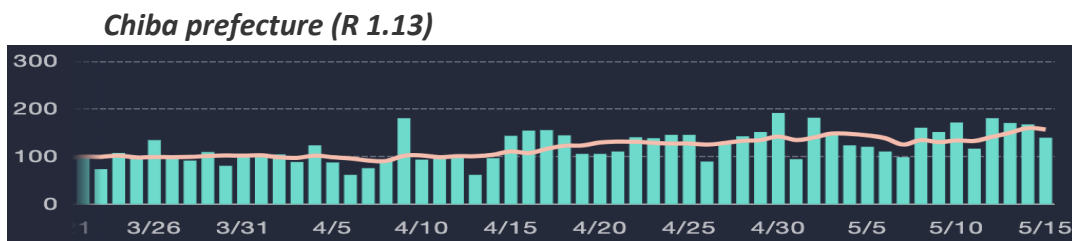
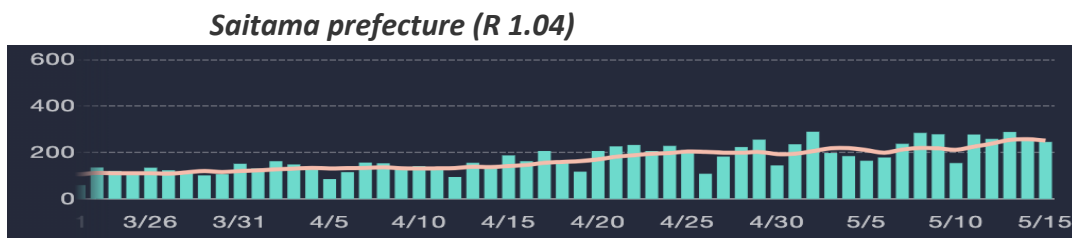
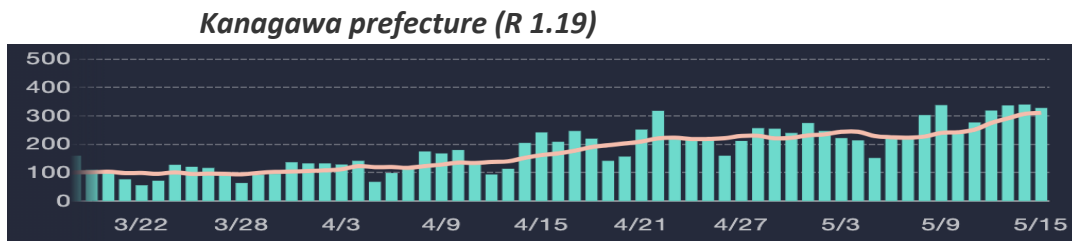
Based on current trends, 7-day average mortality appears set to exceed the level seen in January and has already risen to close to 100 deaths per day. Increasing diffusion of COVID19 into rural areas with older populations may further accelerate this in weeks to come.

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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region



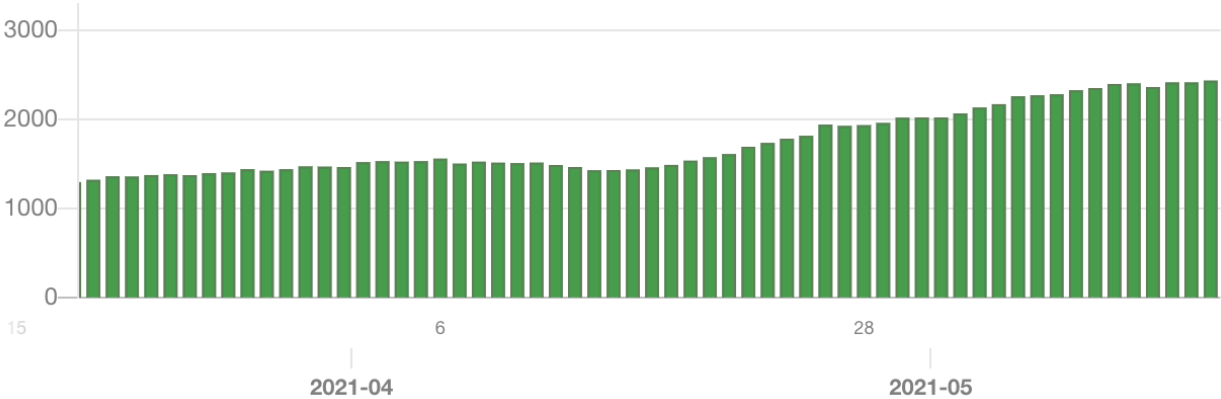
Case numbers in Tokyo (presently under a state of emergency) are stable though have not demonstrably fallen. However, adjoining regions (under primary prevention measures) are all experiencing some degree of increase in rates of infection, this seen most notably in Kanagawa, where infections have more than doubled over the past month.



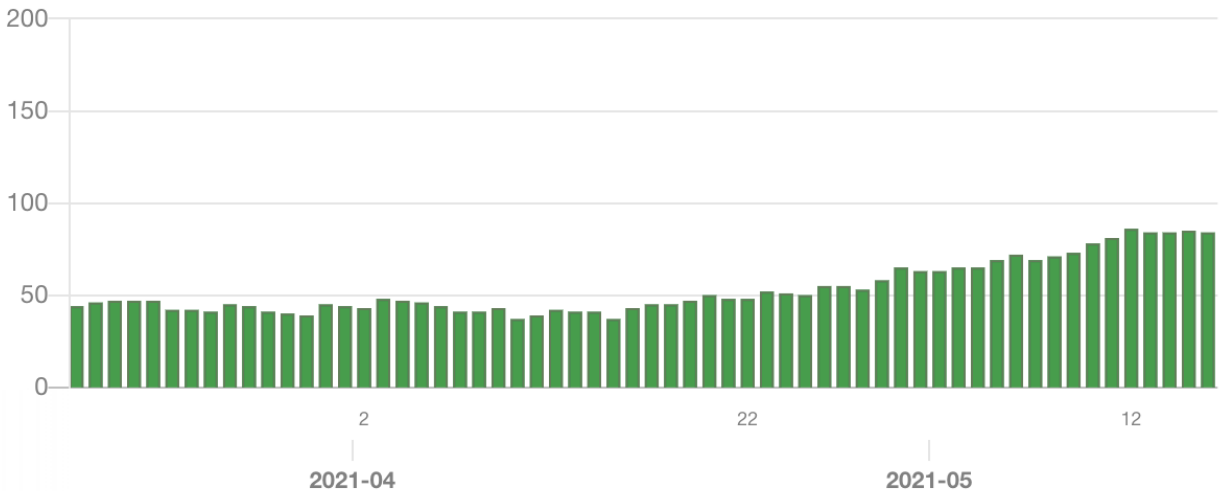
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients



Number of critically ill patients

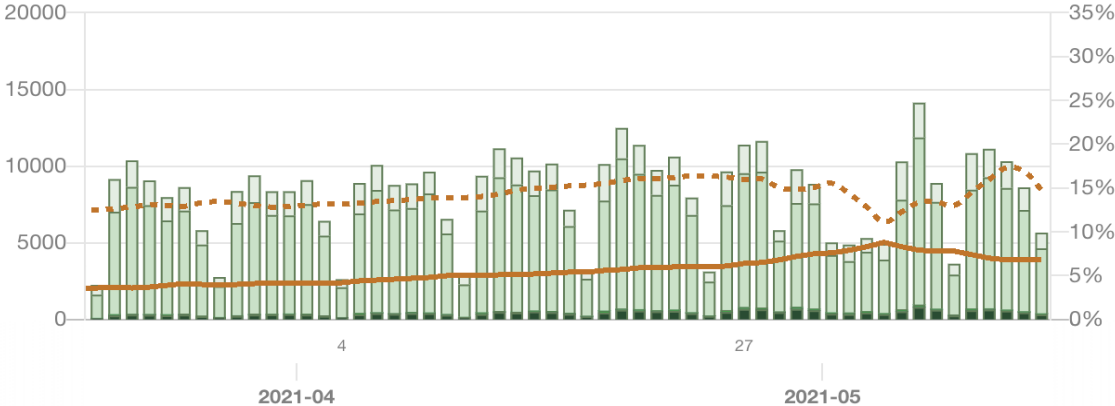


Hospitalization rates have continued to rise slowly with a little under 50% of COVID19 designated beds in the capital presently being occupied (2,430 in-patients against a total capacity of 5,594 beds). As such, surge capacity remains in place, though without a reduction in new infections, additional medical care may need to be repurposed for COVID19, at a cost to routine and urgent care of non-COVID patients.

There is relatively less pressure on critical care capacity, with occupancy remaining well below 100 (Tokyo currently has 373 beds designated for COVID19 patients).

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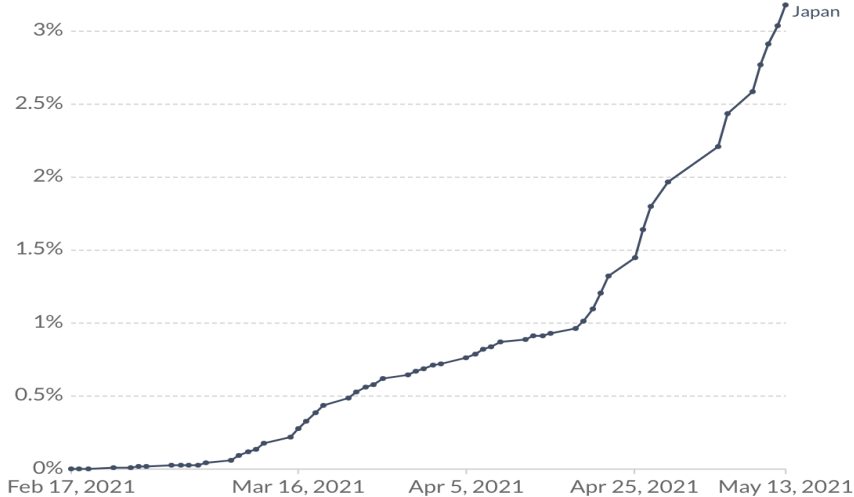
Testing for COVID 19



Overall rates of testing remain stable and low by international standards, though the rate of positive tests has fallen from over 8% at the start of the month to 6.3% as of now.

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



Although a substantial majority of healthcare workers have received at least one dose, few people the next priority group (individuals over 65) have been immunized and the majority of people in this group have yet to secure an appointment, with many local governments in areas with older populations struggling to put appropriate systems in place.

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>

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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>