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Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



National Reproduction Rate - Reff (R 0.79)



The reduction in new infections continues, with early signs that cases are beginning to plateau. Following the previous (third) wave, national daily cases fell to about 1,000 per day in early February of this year then remained level for several weeks. As the more contagious alpha variant is now dominant in Japan, it seems unrealistic to expect any improvement on this as the fourth wave ends.

The state of emergency which was in effect in ten prefectures until Sunday the 20th has now ended. In many regions it has been replaced by less strict primary prevention measures which are now in place in Tokyo, Osaka and five other prefectures (Hokkaido, Aichi, Kyoto, Hyogo and Fukuoka). These measures are intended to remain for the next three weeks and are clearly intended to limit the risk of a further increase in cases before the Olympic games start on the 23rd of July.

Pressure on hospitals and in particular on intensive care beds has continues to ease across the country and mortality rates have now been falling gradually for three weeks.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



Mortality (Nationwide) - daily



Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 1.00)



Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.95)



Saitama prefecture (R 0.82)



Chiba prefecture (R 1.05)

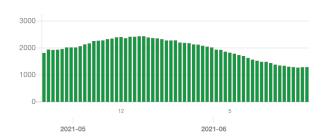


As Tokyo exits its state of emergency, case numbers are level at an average of approximately 400 per day, reproduction rate of 1. It is highly likely that there will be some increase in contagion during the coming weeks. There are two reasons for this:

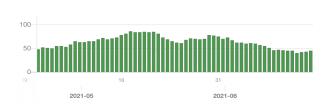
- Relaxation of emergency measures means that alcohol can now be served in restaurants, though only to groups of up to two people and no later than 7pm.
 However, in practice, an increasing number of establishments appear to be disregarding government guidelines and it is easy to find bars and restaurants reverting to pre-covid operations and serving until late.
- 2) The delta variant has been clearly shown to be more contagious that the currently dominant alpha variant. Nationally, the highest number of community transmission events of delta variant have occurred in Tokyo (30 cases as of June 14th), with the neighbouring prefectures of Kanagawa (17 cases) and Chiba (16 cases) in second and third place. These numbers significantly under-estimate the true prevalence of this variant as currently only 6.2% of new infections undergo genetic sequencing, this often taking several weeks to return results.

Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients

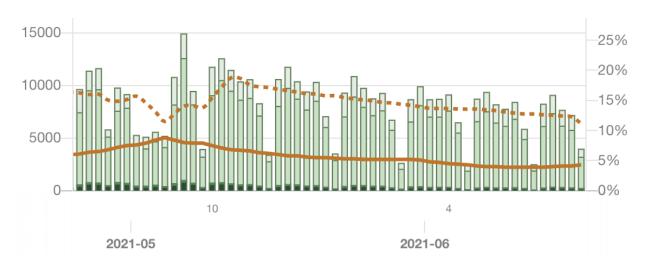


Number of critically ill patients



Pressure on medical resources remains light. The number of available hospital beds remains at 5,594, of which 1,285 (23%) are presently occupied. The rate of occupancy of ICU beds is lower, with 45 (12%) out of an available total of 373 currently in use. Surge capacity is therefore available in the event of an abrupt increase in infections.

Testing for COVID 19

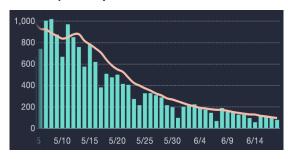


Rates of testing are stable and over the past few days there has been a modest increase in the rate of positive results, with an increase from a nadir of 4% to 4.5% yesterday.

Regional Situation

Infections in Osaka continue to fall, further accentuating the regional variation between Kansai and Kanto. These areas are now under primary prevention measures.

Osaka (R 0.75)



Hyogo (R 0.70)

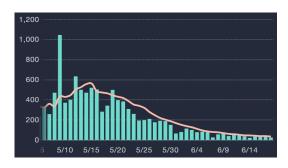


In Aichi (Nagoya) and Fukuoka, the state of emergency has similarly been de-escalated to primary prevention measures, with continued steady reduction in infections.

Aichi (R 0.65)



Fukuoka (R 0.70)



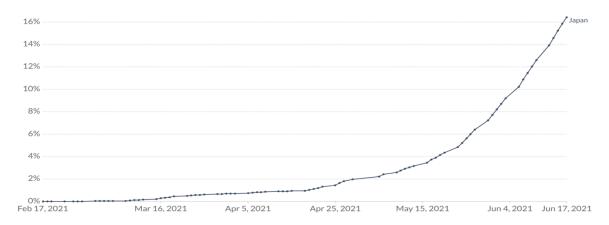
As the final prefecture to be severely hit by the fourth wave, Okinawa continues to have the highest number of cases in the country on a per capita basis. Although there has been an ongoing reduction in new infections, the state of emergency will remain in effect for an additional three weeks, until July the 11th.

Okinawa (R 0.70)



COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



With the intention of further accelerating vaccine rollout, from the 21st of June inoculations have started at 17 universities (out of the 174 that applied) and at workplaces. Although airlines started this a week ago, many other workplaces have now commenced inoculations. In some workplaces, family members, business partners and residents near the venue are also able to get vaccinated. The government and a number of medical institutions are supporting some businesses and if multiple companies coordinate, subsidies are available from the government. Furthermore, from the 18th of June, vaccinations are now also available to Olympic and Paralympic officials and staff. Despite recurring problems with freezers storing vaccines resulting in hundreds of doses being put to waste, the increase in vaccinations is reassuring; doses given now reaching 31.6 million, 22.4 million people having received the first dose, of whom 9 million have received both doses.

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/#Tokyohttps://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