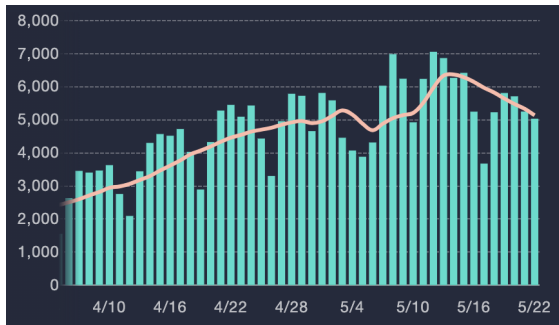


Situation report – COVID19; Japan 25th of May 2021

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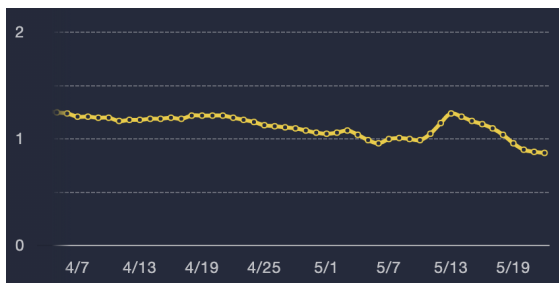
Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



Daily infections have trended down for the past ten days, suggesting that the current fourth wave may have peaked. The national effective reproduction rate is presently at the lowest level since the beginning of March (0.87).

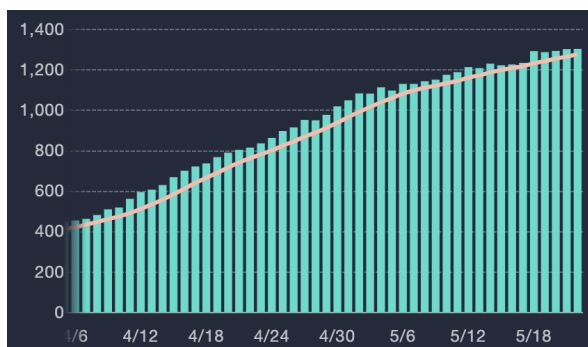
National Reproduction Rate - R_{eff} (R 0.87)



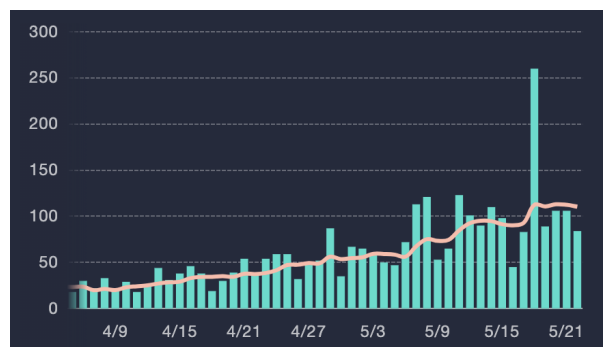
A state of emergency (SOE) remains in place in multiple areas, covering most of the Kansai region and extending to adjoining Okayama and Hiroshima. Additionally, Tokyo and three further prefectures are still under SOE – Hokkaido, Aichi and Fukuoka – and a tenth prefecture entered SOE as of Sunday (Okinawa). Eight more prefectures are under priority preventative measures (PPM), meaning that well over half of the total population currently lives in an area subject to either SOE or PPM.

The number of patients requiring intensive care treatment continues to rise as does mortality, with the medical infrastructure of Okinawa, Hiroshima, Okayama and Fukuoka being under particular pressure, all of these prefectures reporting that over 80% of COVID-19 designated beds are occupied.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



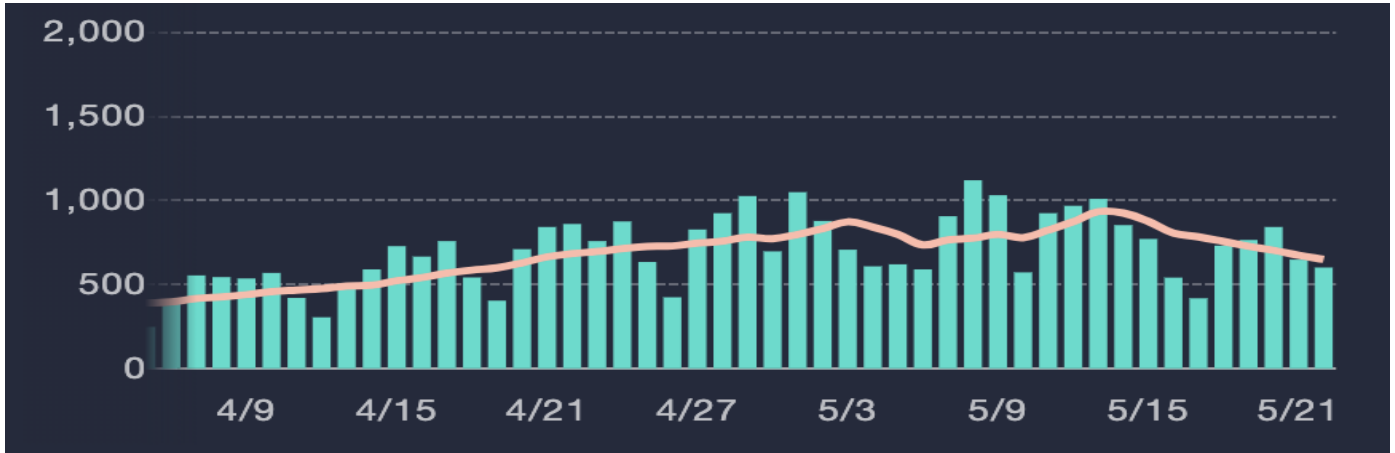
Mortality (Nationwide) - daily



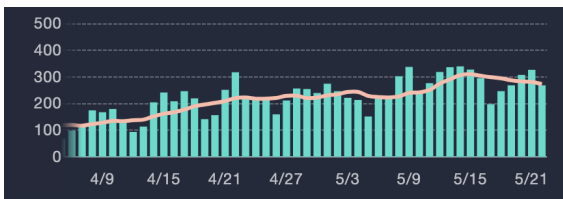
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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

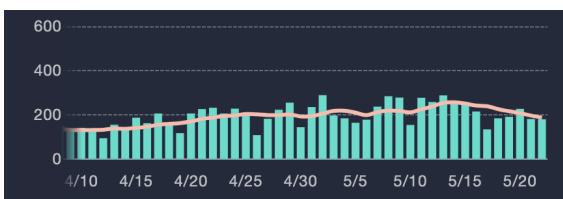
Tokyo daily cases (R 0.81)



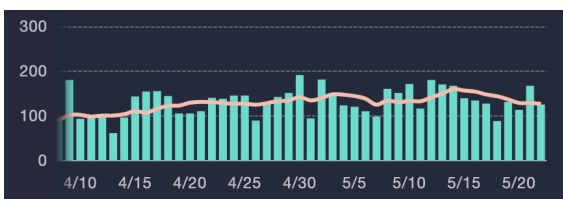
Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.91)



Saitama prefecture (R 0.81)



Chiba prefecture (R 0.86)



The month-old state of emergency is starting to take effect, with new cases in Tokyo falling. The 7-day average of daily infections has dropped by over 30% over the past ten days. A similar trend appears to be emerging across the region, with the three prefectures adjoining the capital all experiencing some reduction in contagion. As was seen earlier in the month in Osaka, a reduction in infections has been achieved despite the more contagious N501Y variants (chiefly originating in the UK) having become dominant in recent weeks.

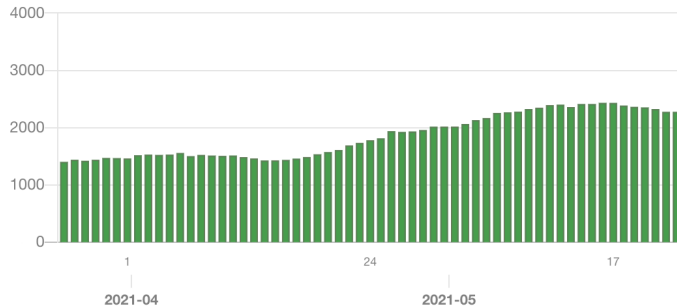
Early indications are that variants from India (L452R) are beginning to spread in Kansai at a community level, a total of 18 such cases now having been identified in Tokyo, including a single cluster of five individuals reported yesterday.

Preliminary data from the UK and India suggests that L452R variants are 40-60% more contagious than N501Y, so there is clearly a significant potential for a further increase in the rate of new infections while the level of immunity to COVID19 across the whole population remains very low. On a more positive note, vaccination has been shown to provide protection against these variants.

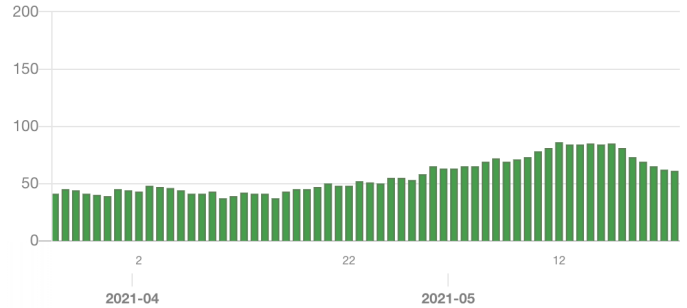
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients

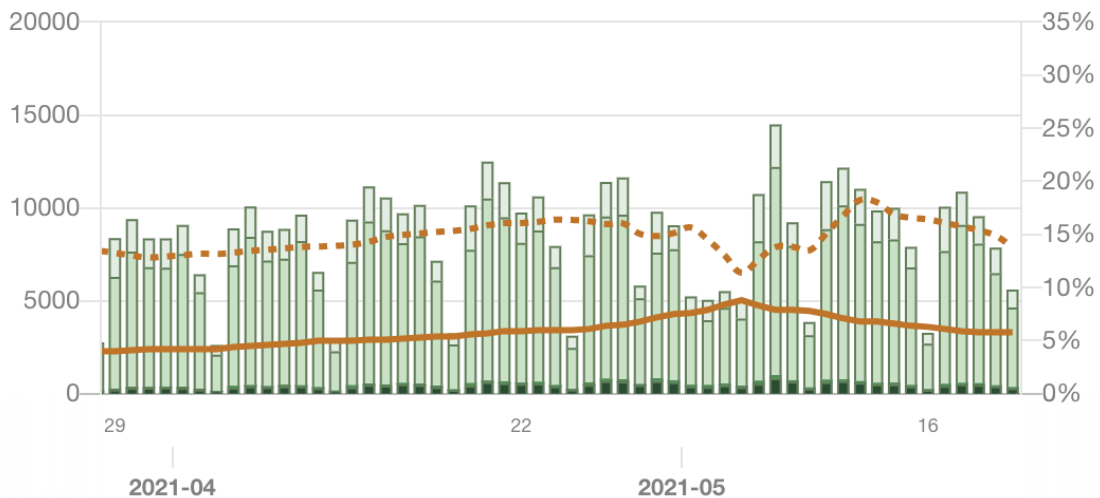


Number of critically ill patients



Hospitalization and intensive care occupancy rates have both fallen slightly over the past week, consistent with an ongoing decline in new infections. The number of available hospital beds has remained the same at 5,594, of which 2,277 (41%) are occupied. The rate of occupancy of ICU beds is significantly lower, with 68 (18%) currently in use. Sufficient surge capacity is therefore available in the event of an abrupt increase in infections.

Testing for COVID 19



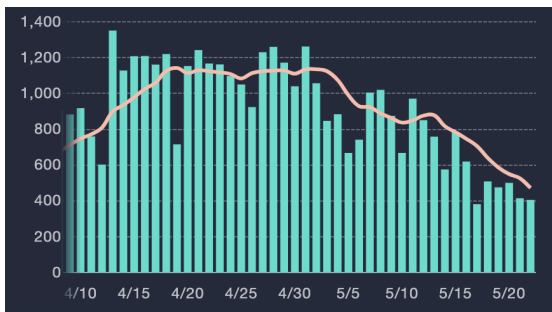
Rates of testing are stable but the percentage of positive tests has fallen from a peak of 8.8% on the 5th of May to 5.5% at present.

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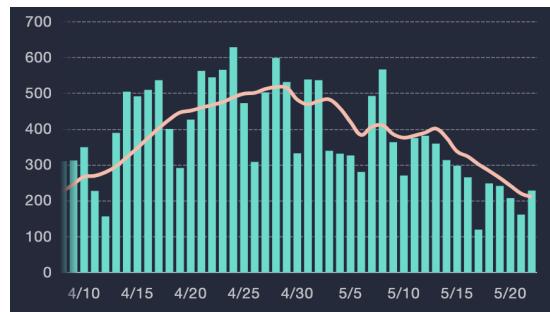
Regional Situation

Infections continue to fall in Kansai and have now been doing so consistently for three weeks. The state of emergency here was enacted at the same time as in Tokyo (a month ago):

Osaka (R 0.7)

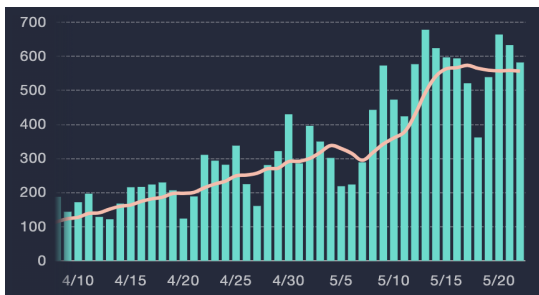


Hyogo (R 0.71)

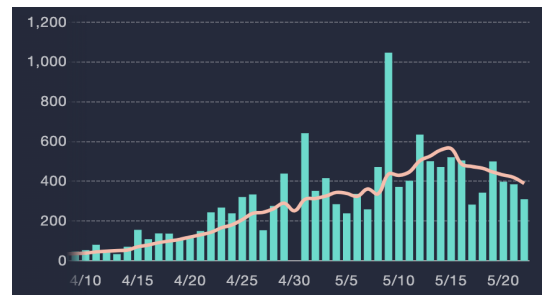


The situation in Aichi (Nagoya) and Fukuoka, which have both been under SOE for a little over two weeks (since the 12th of May), is starting to improve modestly:

Aichi (R 0.99)

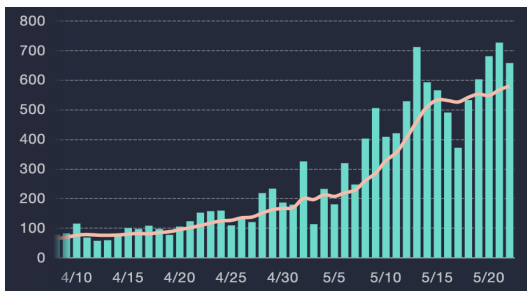


Fukuoka (R 0.77)

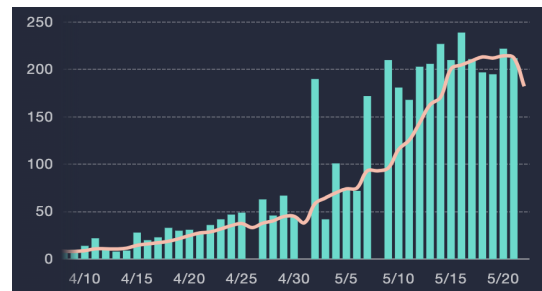


Prefectures subjected to SOE since the 16th (9 days ago) may be showing early signs of stabilizing the number of infections without clear evidence of a reduction:

Hokkaido (R 1.06)



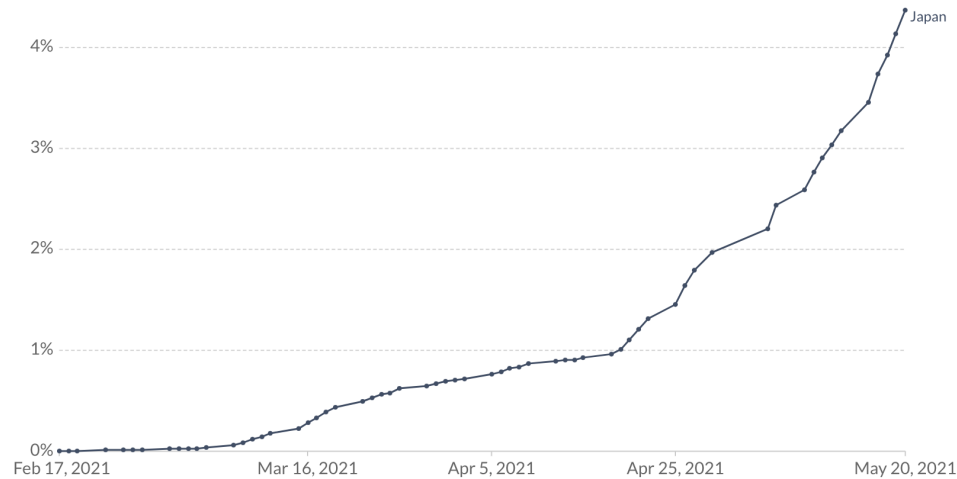
Hiroshima (R 0.93)



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COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



Although the majority of healthcare workers have now received at least one dose of vaccine, Japan continues to trail the world in coverage, with a fraction of people over 65 having been immunized and no concrete plans or timeline as to how vaccination will be extended to the general population.

Tokyo's new mass immunization venue started operating in Otemachi on Monday, administering the recently approved Moderna vaccine to over 65s and staffed by the military. The center will treat up to 10,000 people per day with the government expressing hopes that this will help to achieve their stated aim of covering all people over 65 by the end of July and accelerating the rate of vaccination to a million people per day.

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>