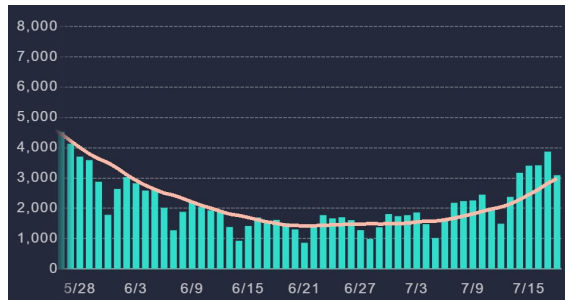


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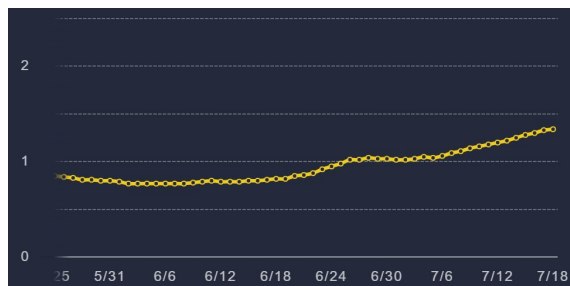
Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



Cases are rising rapidly across the country. The current effective reproduction rate of 1.3 represents a six-month high, not having been exceeded since the first half of January. This is a predicted consequence of the dissemination of the delta variant, which is expected to become the dominant strain across the country within two weeks.

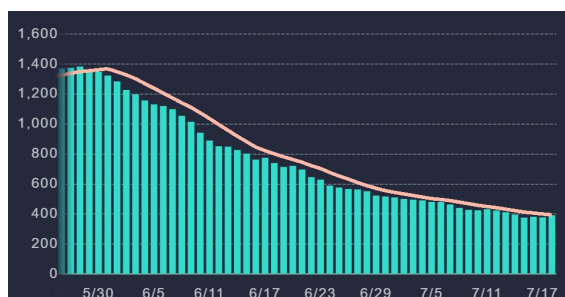
National Reproduction Rate - R_{eff} (R 1.3)



Rate of death and critical illness have yet to rise, however. While some increased pressure on medical infrastructure is inevitable, this will be mitigated by immunization. Japan's vaccination program has prioritized the elderly with over 80% of people over 65 having now had at least one COVID19 shot, and a large proportion of them having had both. This should lead to a much lower death rate than seen in the fourth wave, which was largely caused by the alpha variant and occurred before the vaccination rollout started.

Regional emergency response measures have yet to be declared outside of Tokyo.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



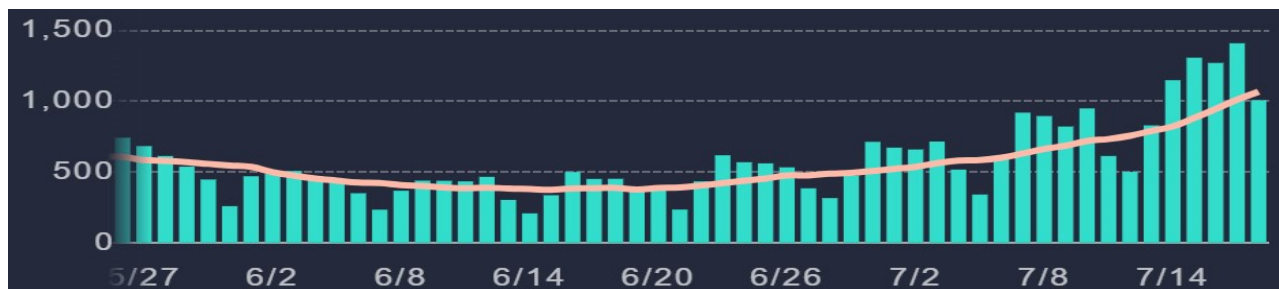
Mortality (Nationwide) - daily



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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 1.27)



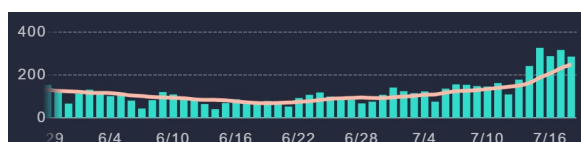
Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.27)



Case numbers continue to rise across the region with daily infections routinely exceeding 1,000 in the capital. As is the case with the country as a whole, this reflects a six-month high in the relative reproduction rate.

Prefectures adjoining Tokyo have requested that a state of emergency be declared though as of now no decision has been reached by the central government. The current “Manbo” primary preventative measures have nevertheless been tightened with Kanagawa restricting the sale of alcohol with effect until the 22nd of April.

Saitama prefecture (R 1.4)



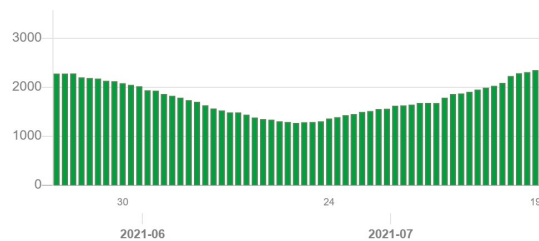
Chiba prefecture (R 1.23)



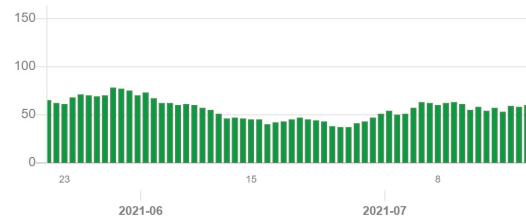
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients



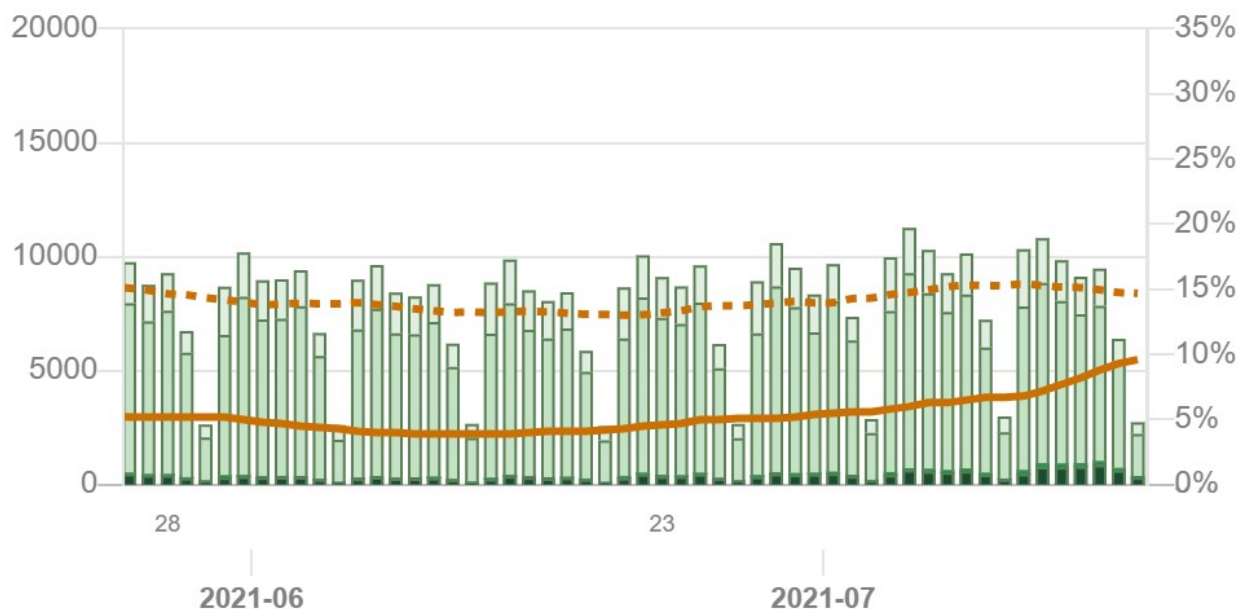
Number of critically ill patients



Hospitalizations have risen over the past week though remain below the levels seen at the start of the year (over 3,000 beds were occupied during the first two weeks of January).

Out of a total capacity of 5,882 beds, 2,388 (41%) are presently occupied. ICU capacity is under much less pressure, with 60 of 392 (15%) beds currently being in use. It therefore seems unlikely that additional medical beds will need to be repurposed during the next 4 weeks.

Testing for COVID 19



Rates of testing remain stable though there has been a sharp increase in the rate of positive tests to over 10%. Local health units and COVID19 advice telephone lines are reporting much higher demand and are likely to be under significant pressure to maintain coverage over the upcoming 4-day holiday weekend.

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Regional Situation

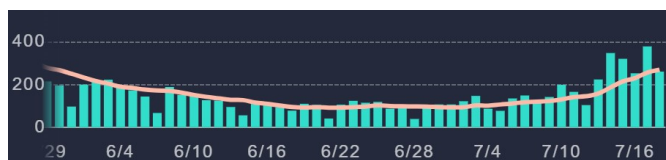
Okinawa remains the only prefecture outside of Kanto under a state of emergency, currently due to expire on the 22nd of August. Case numbers have increased marginally over the past week

Okinawa (R 1.12)



Osaka remains under primary prevention measures but has nevertheless seen an appreciable rise in infections over the past week, raising the possibility that enhanced public health measures perhaps including a new state of emergency may become necessary.

Osaka (R 1.56)

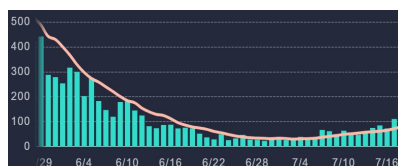


Other large urban areas are no longer under any special measures. Case numbers here and across much of the remainder of the country are much lower than seen in Kanto (both in absolute and per capita terms). However, the ongoing dissemination of the delta variant means that further increases in contagion are inevitable.

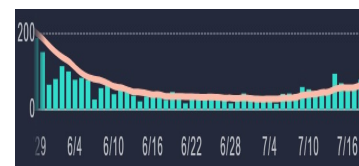
Aichi (R 1.18)



Hokkaido (R 1.32)



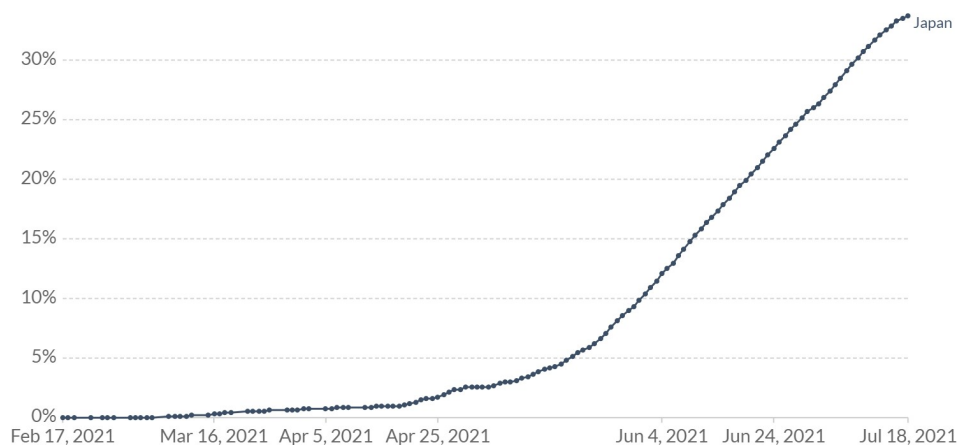
Fukuoka (R 1.35)



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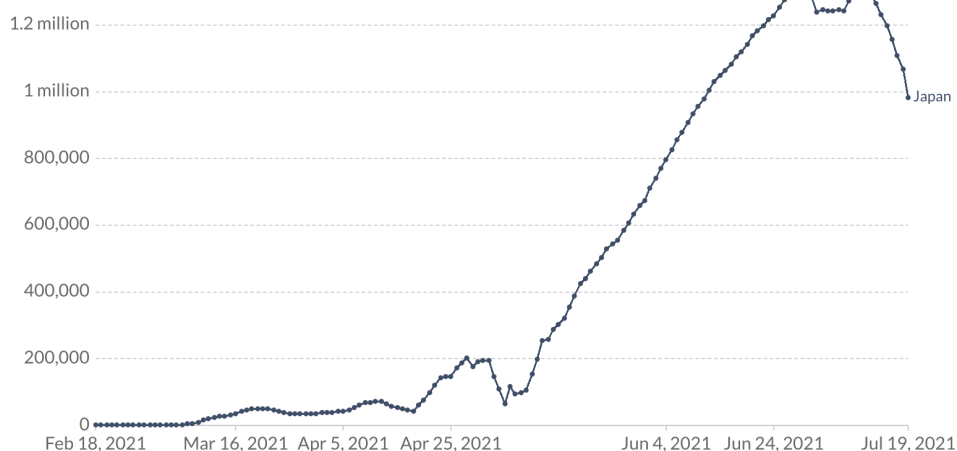
COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



Vaccines continue to be administered at a rapid rate, with coverage approaching 35%. Administration appears to have plateaued at about 1.25 million doses a day:

Vaccines administered (7 day average of daily doses given)



Note that reporting delays mean that figures for the past 7 to 10 days are incomplete and are likely to be revised upwards as additional data is collected.

There are continuing reports of shortages of supply and difficulties in obtaining vaccination appointments. However, the government's stated goal of offering all eligible individuals two immunizations by October appears attainable.

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>