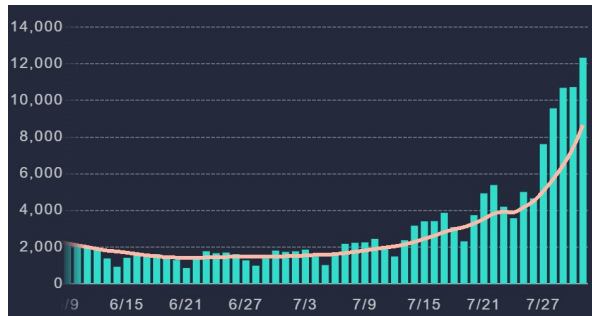


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, August 3rd 2021

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Current Situation in Japan

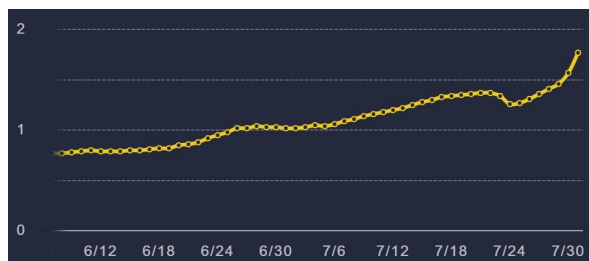
Test positives nationally:



COVID 19 infections are rising at an unprecedented rate with the effective reproduction rate higher than it has been at any time in the past year. Over 10,000 new infections are being reported daily, close to double the numbers seen at the peak of the previous third and fourth waves.

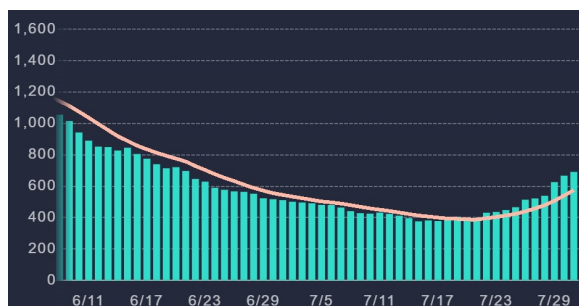
This sharp increase in contagion is due to the delta variant, which accounted for 80% of new infections as of the start of August. It is highly likely to account for over 99% of cases by the end of the month.

National Reproduction Rate - R_{eff} (R 1.77)

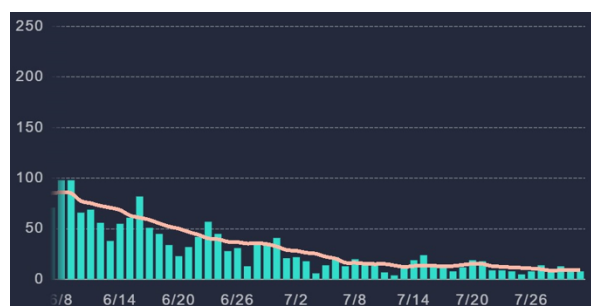


There has been a shift in the typical ages of hospitalized patients. With approximately 80% of the elderly (over 65) population having been fully vaccinated, proportionally more seriously unwell patients are in their 40s and 50s. Mortality has yet to increase, with far fewer deaths being reported than was the case in previous waves. These trends are clearly a consequence of immunization, re-enforcing the need for unvaccinated people over 12 to receive their shots as soon as possible

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



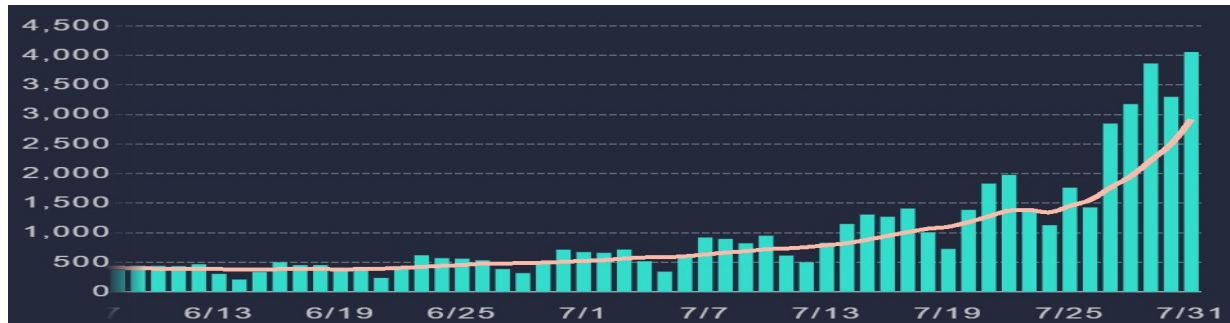
Mortality (Nationwide) - daily



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Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

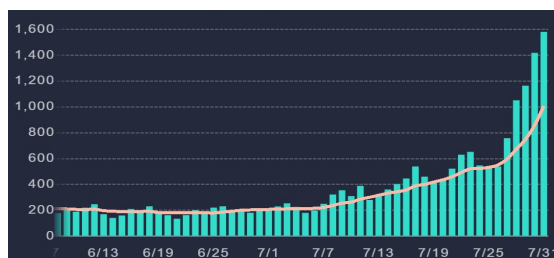
Tokyo daily cases (R 1.74)



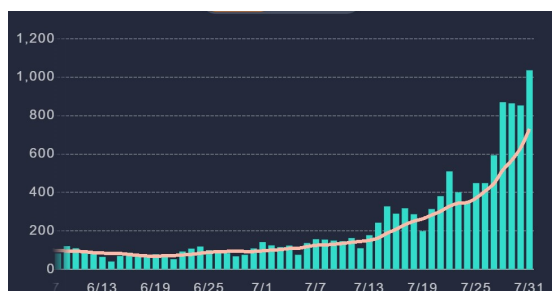
Chiba prefecture (R 1.63)



Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.6)



Saitama prefecture (R 1.7)



Tokyo and its three surrounding prefectures are now all under emergency measures, despite which the rates of infection continue to increase.

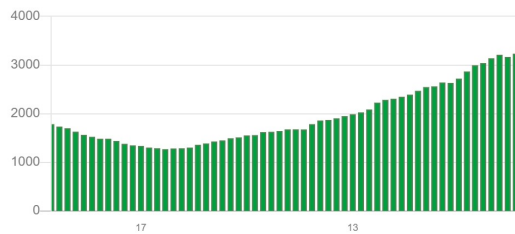
Contrary to the concerns expressed earlier in the year, the Olympic bubble has been relatively protected and has not experienced the levels of infection seen across the rest of the capital. Only 24 of over 11,000 athletes have contracted COVID 19, and while close to 300 cases have been identified in the wider pool of people involved in the games, the majority of these have been in Japan residents, not visitors. This has occurred against a background of very extensive PCR testing of the Olympic population, with over 400,000 samples collected and analysed.

The fact that extensive testing has effectively controlled COVID 19 within the Olympic bubble while at the same time, the wider population of Tokyo has experienced an explosive surge of infections might suggest to health policy makers that their long held sparse testing approach needs to be reconsidered. During July, fewer than 300,000 state funded PCR tests were performed on the entire population of Tokyo (over 14 million people).

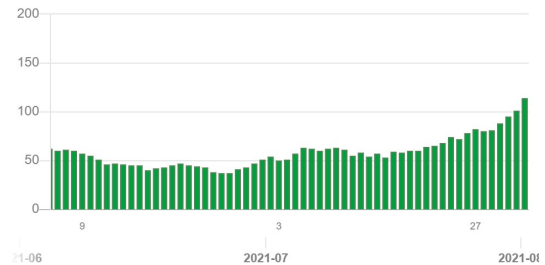
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients



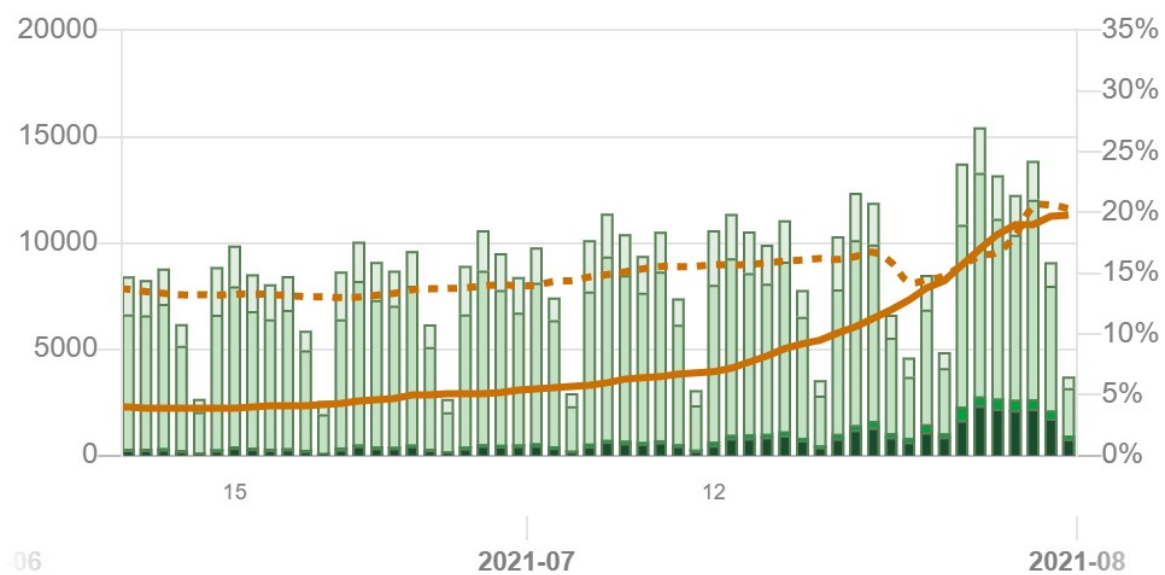
Number of critically ill patients



Hospitalizations have continued to rise over the past week, almost surpassing the levels seen in early January. With occupancy now at over 50%, some concerns are being expressed that if rates of infection continue to rise unchecked, it may become increasingly difficult to find space for more unwell COVID 19 patients.

Out of a total capacity of 5,967 beds, 3,231 (54%) are presently occupied. ICU capacity is under less pressure, with 114 of 392 (29%) beds currently being in use.

Testing for COVID 19



Rates of testing have risen over the past week, though remain very low in proportion to the total population and levels of infection being identified. The rate of positive tests (20%) exceeds the peaks seen earlier this year – during the third wave, in January, no more than 14.5% of tests were positive on any given day.

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Regional Situation

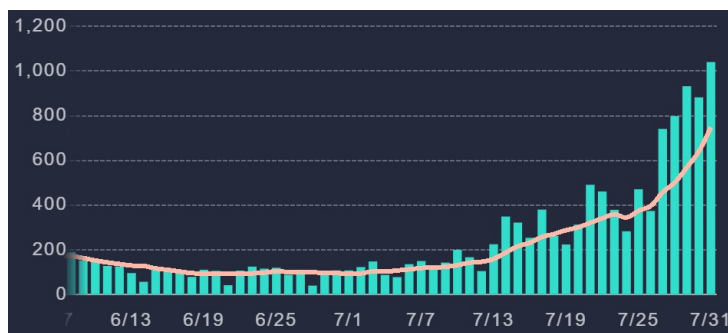
There is clear evidence of the delta variant causing an upsurge in cases in the wider Kansai region, with Hyogo (adjoining Osaka) having experienced a particularly significant increase in cases over the past ten days:

Hyogo (R 1.92)



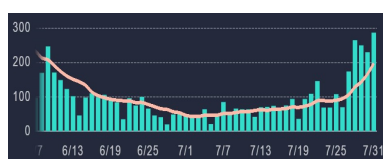
Osaka continues to report more cases and based on present trends, is likely to see record levels of infection within the next week. In response, infection control measures have been upgraded from primary preventative to a state of emergency.

Osaka (R 1.74)

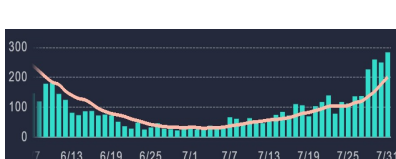


Other large urban areas are not currently under special measures but are seeing significantly more cases, so may well be subjected to enhanced public health measures soon:

Aichi (R 1.78)



Hokkaido (R 1.59)



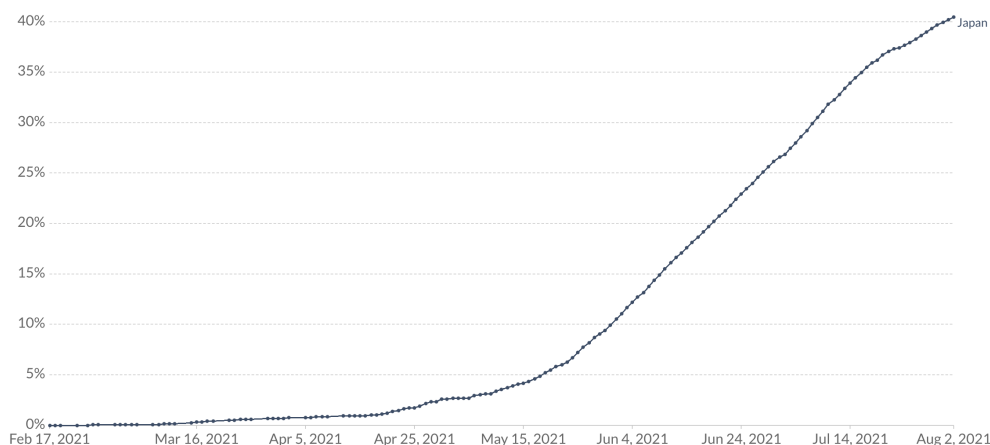
Fukuoka (R 2.26)



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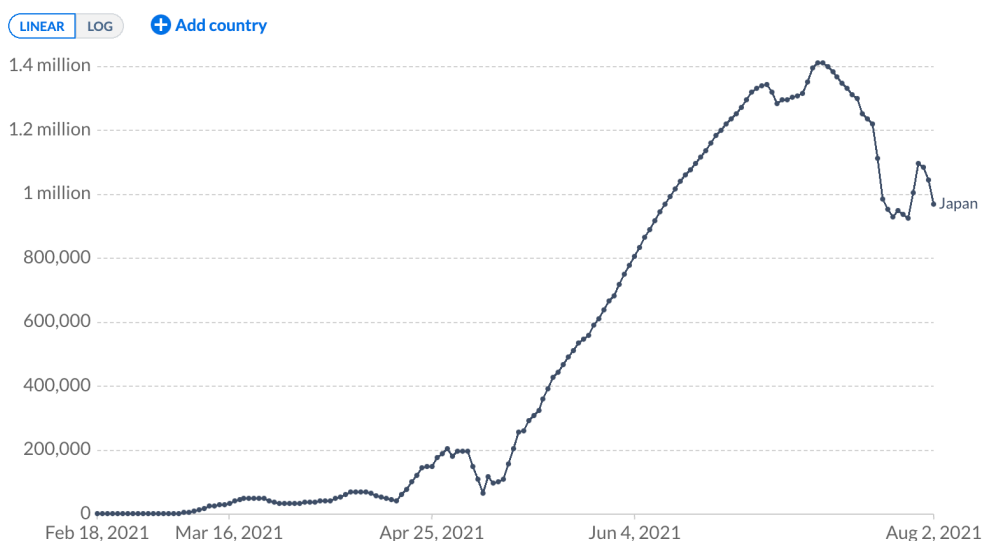
COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



Vaccines continue to be administered at a rapid rate, with coverage now exceeding 40% of the population (one or more doses), 30% of the population having been fully vaccinated.

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. The government has started administering vaccines at Narita and Haneda airports to citizens returning from abroad in order to allow foreign-resident Japanese to receive vaccinations here. The Health minister has urged the public to avoid activities with a high risk of infection as the delta variant is spreading rapidly, at least until vaccination of older people further lowers the risk of serious illness.

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>