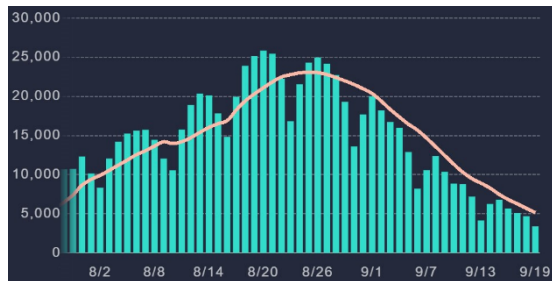


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 21st

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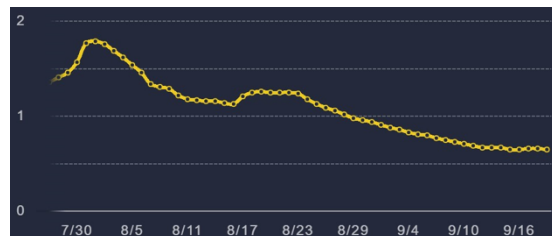
Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



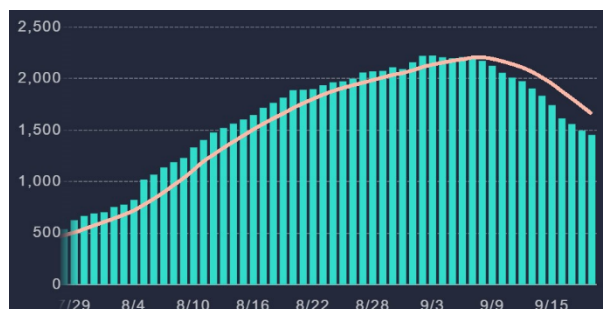
Daily infections have now fallen to a seven-day average of approximately 5,000 and appear set to drop further. Critical illness (national intensive care occupancy) has dropped from a peak of over 2,000 to approximately 1,500 and due to the protective effects of vaccination, mortality associated with the current 5th wave appears to have peaked at a markedly lower level than that associated with the 3rd and 4th waves. 50-60 deaths are currently being recorded per day compared to over 100 during January and April of this year.

National Reproduction Rate - R_{eff} (R 0.65)

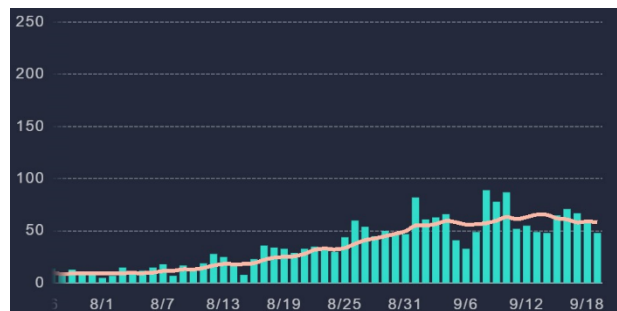


Japan's relative reproduction rate is currently very low and appears stable, having remained below 0.7 for over two weeks. This marks the lowest level seen for over a year, although as this is occurring in the context of a prolonged state of emergency, some deterioration is to be anticipated when public health measures are eased next month.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



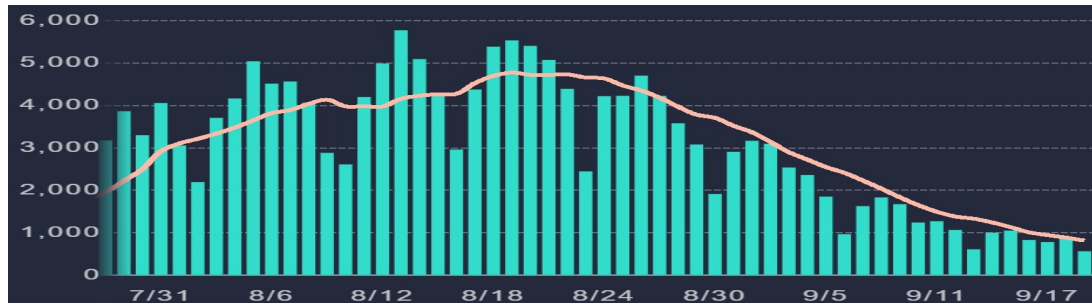
Mortality (Nationwide) – daily



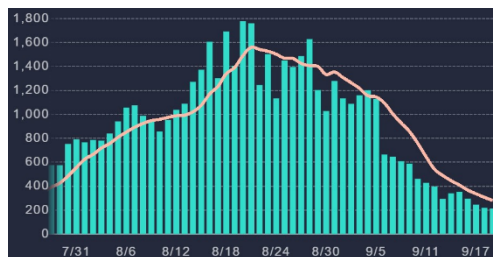
Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 14th

Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 0.69)



Chiba prefecture (R 0.62)



Tokyo and its surrounding prefectures likewise continue to report falling case numbers though the region remains under a state of emergency which is set to remain in place until the end of this month. Sunday the 20th of September saw a total of 302 recorded cases in the capital, the first time new daily infections have dropped to below 500 since the delta variant became dominant in late July.

Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.67)



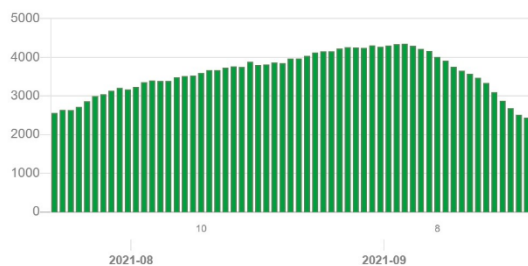
Saitama prefecture (R 0.66)



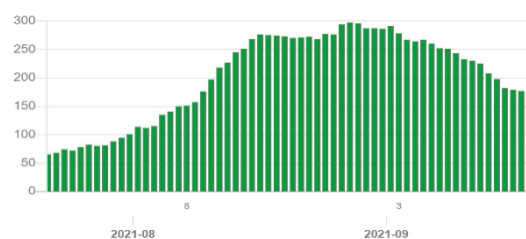
Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 14th

Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients



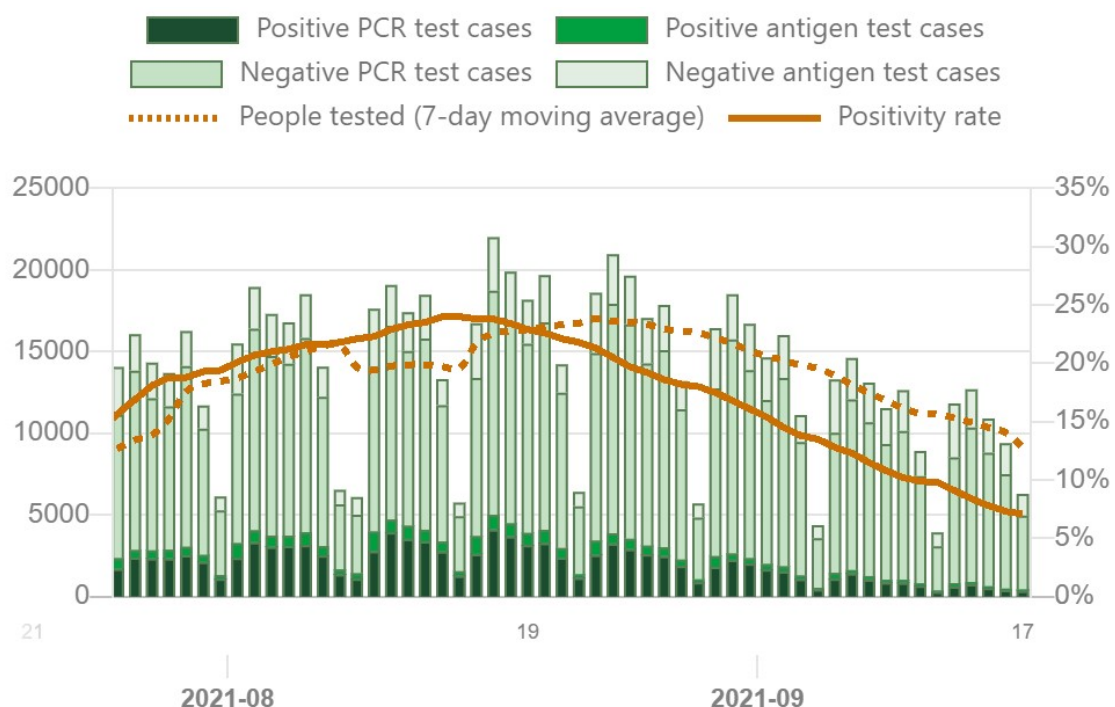
Number of critically ill patients



Hospital bed occupancy has dropped dramatically since its peak at the start of the month. Out of the current total capacity of 6,583 designated beds, 2,406 (37%) are presently occupied.

Intensive care occupancy is falling more slowly. This likely reflects the younger average age of more severely unwell patients seen in the 5th wave, as people aged 30-64 who are unvaccinated are disproportionately represented here. Such patients are more likely to survive an intensive care admission than the more elderly people admitted with critical illness early in the pandemic. However, their hospital stays may consequently be very lengthy. 169 of 503 available beds are now reported to be occupied (34%).

Testing for COVID 19



The rate of positive tests has continued to fall and now stands at 7.1%. Rates of testing continue to fall though these figures do not include very large numbers of screening tests on healthy people performed by individuals and companies.

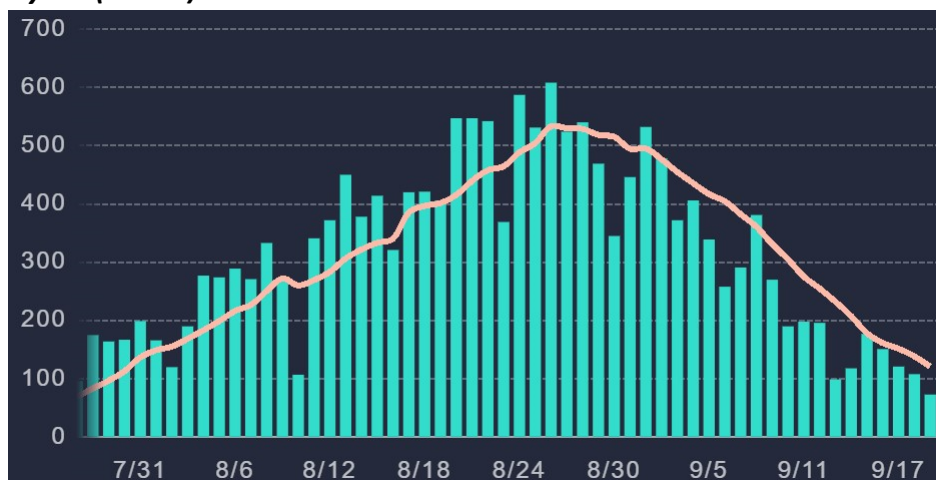
Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 14th

Regional Situation

Public health measures remain unchanged, with 27 of Japan's 47 prefectures under restrictions of some kind, of which 19 are under a state of emergency. In all cases measures are slated to remain in place until the end of September, with a possibility of extension in more vulnerable regions – typically those with dense urban populations.

In contrast to previous waves, the fall in infections over recent days has been remarkably uniform, with falling contagion (reproduction rate of below 1.0) seen in each individual prefecture.

Kyoto (R 0.59)



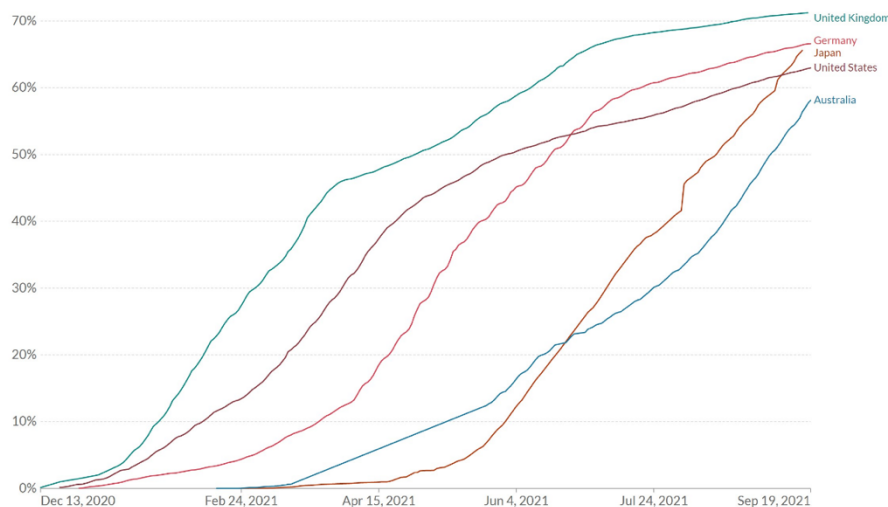
Hokkaido (R 0.7)



Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 14th

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



Over 65% of the population have received at least one dose of a COVID 19 vaccine as coverage overtakes the US and approaches typical levels seen in Europe.

Vaccines administered (7 day average of daily doses given)



The Health Ministry has decided to offer a third immunization, possibly commencing before the end of the year. The booster shot will be available to people who have had their second dose at least 8 months prior. Medical professionals will again get priority access to the vaccine. Studies show that antibodies fall to less than a quarter of their original level after six months; the third shot should boost their levels and reduce risk. However, since only 65% of the eligible population has received a single dose and only 53% have both doses there have been arguments on prioritizing first doses for those who haven't been vaccinated. In addition, the WHO continues to call for a moratorium on booster vaccines in developed countries until the end of the year so that developing countries can secure vaccines in order to inoculate their populations.

The Health Ministry has now authorized mixing and matching vaccines at a doctor's discretion so if an individual experiences an allergic reaction to the first dose they can receive their second dose from a different vaccine.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 14th

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>