

## Situation report – COVID19; Japan, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

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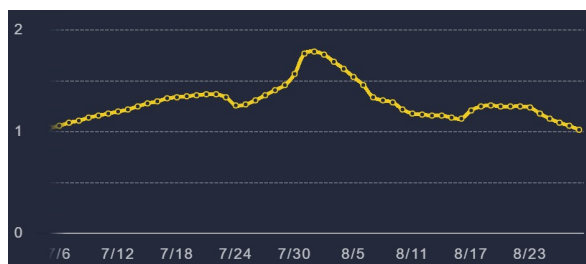
### Current Situation in Japan

#### Test positives nationally:



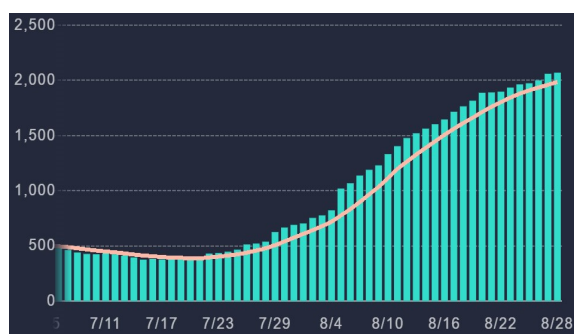
There are some indications that the current 5<sup>th</sup> wave may be peaking at a little below 30,000 cases per day, the national reproduction rate having fallen to close to 1.0 over the past week. Critical illness rates and deaths caused by the current wave are still rising, though, and the conditions required to terminate local states of emergency are unlikely to be met by the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, when measures are due to expire. To reasonably call an end to local emergency states, cases would need to fall in a sustained manner and the pressure on medical resources would have to ease significantly.

#### National Reproduction Rate - $R_{eff}$ (R 1.02)

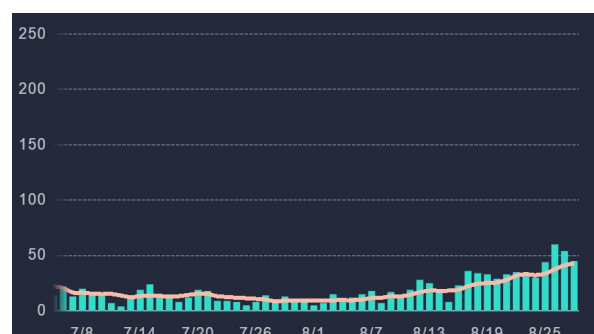


Although vaccination of the most vulnerable has kept mortality at well below levels seen in previous waves, the number of critically ill patients remains at a record level and continues to rise. As of yesterday, 2,110 people were classified as critically ill, this figure being 50% higher than the peak rate of critical illness seen in the 4<sup>th</sup> wave (April-May of this year).

#### Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



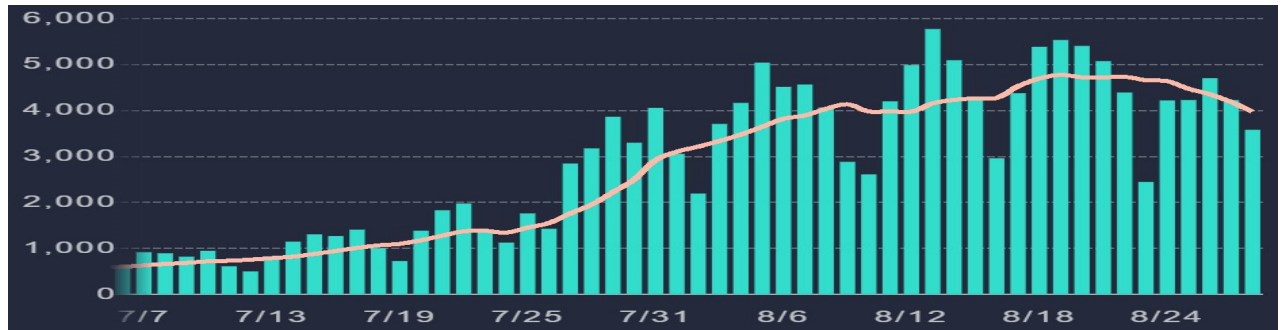
#### Mortality (Nationwide) - daily



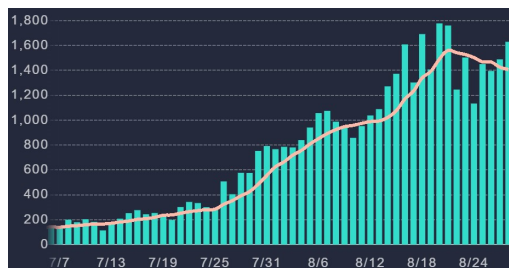
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### *Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region*

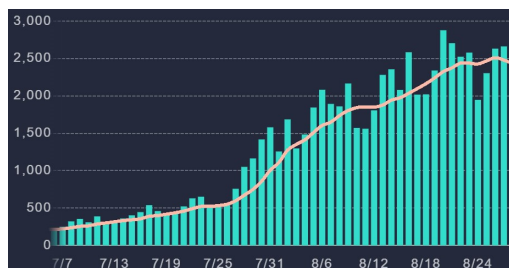
#### *Tokyo daily cases (R .88)*



#### *Chiba prefecture (R 0.93)*



#### *Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.02)*



#### *Saitama prefecture (R 0.93)*

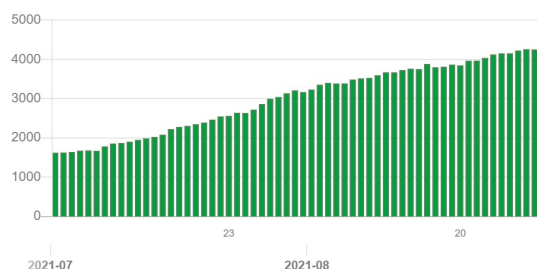


The Kanto region, including Tokyo, was the first part of the country to be affected by the delta variant and the capital has now been under emergency measures for over seven weeks. This is longer than anywhere else in the country except for Okinawa. However, case numbers now appear to be falling though in Tokyo remain at over 3,000 per day. It is to be hoped that this trend can be maintained as schools re-open, though there is clearly some potential for contagion in schools and universities to derail recent progress. Spread in educational institutions is more of a concern now than earlier in the pandemic as the delta variant is more contagious so has the potential to disseminate rapidly in relatively under-vaccinated populations of older children and young adults.

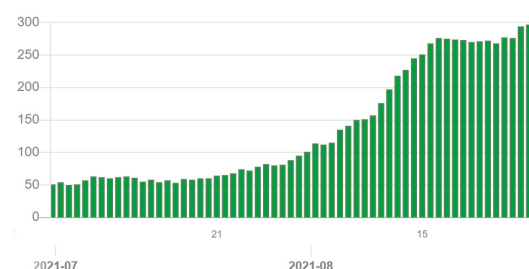
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### Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

*Number of hospital patients*



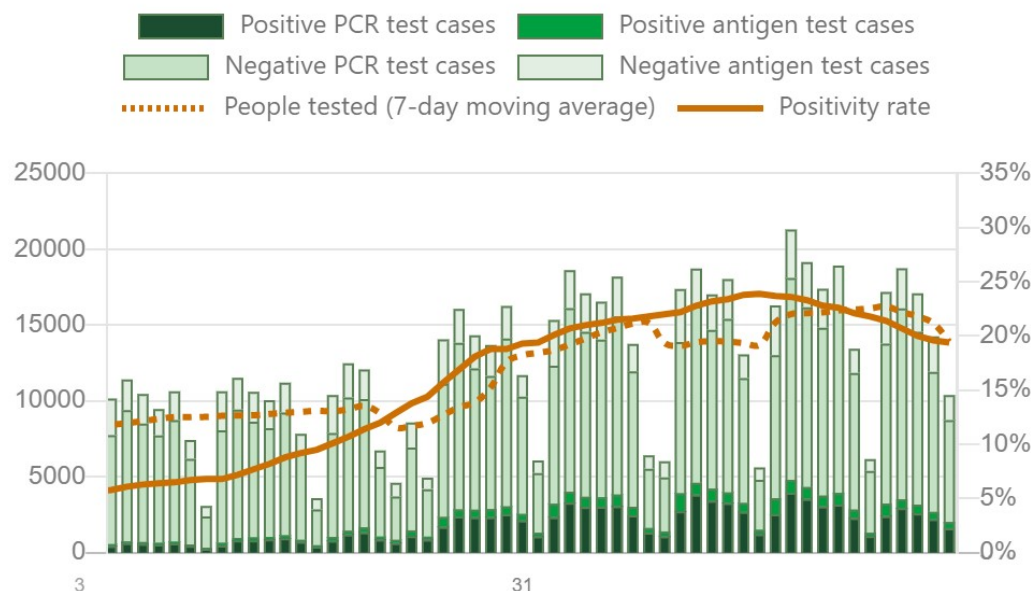
*Number of critically ill patients*



Hospital occupancy continues to rise gradually though with some beds remaining in reserve. Out of a total capacity of 5,967 COVID 19 designated beds, 4,242 (71%) are presently occupied, relatively limited capacity meaning that newly diagnosed patients face longer waits for hospital beds and are more likely to be admitted to geographically distant facilities.

ICU beds remain under significant pressure. Although only 287 of 392 COVID 19 designated intensive care beds are presently reported as being in use (73%), physicians working in acute care are reporting increasing difficulty in finding vacancies for patients who require ventilation. Staff shortages and other logistical problems may be preventing full use of the beds listed as being available for COVID19 patients.

### Testing for COVID 19



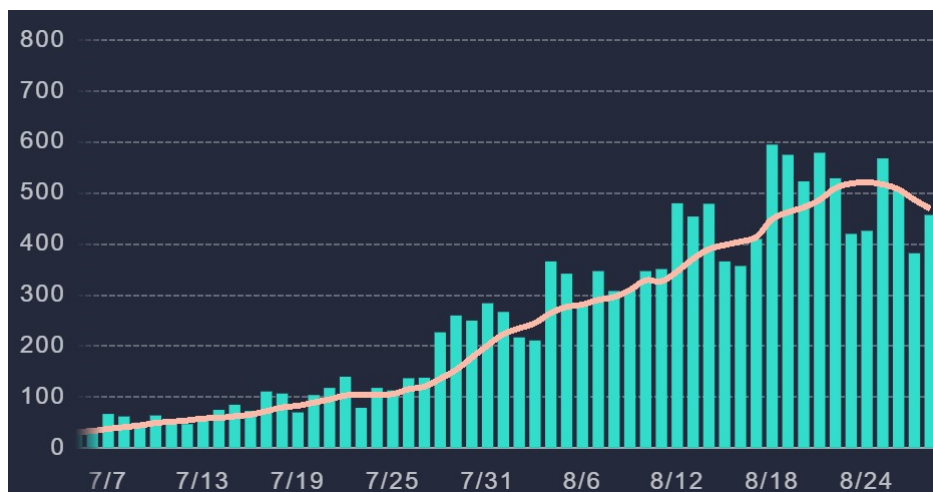
The rate of positive tests has continued to fall for the second week and now stands at 18.3%, from a peak of over 24%. This suggests that the fall in reported new infections genuinely represents a reduction in contagion.

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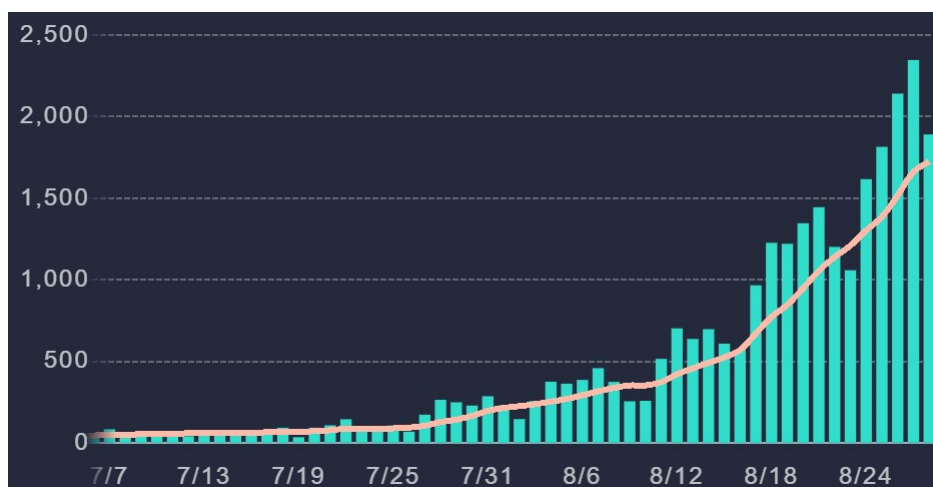
### *Regional Situation*

The government recently added 8 further prefectures to the 13 already under a state of emergency. On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of August Hokkaido, Miyagi, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, Okayama, and Hiroshima experienced an escalation from primary prevention measures to a state of emergency. Kochi, Saga, Nagasaki, and Miyazaki were added to the quasi-state of emergency category. 33 of Japan's 47 prefectures are now under restrictions of some kind, all such measures presently slated to end on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, though extensions appear highly likely.

#### *Hokkaido (R .97)*



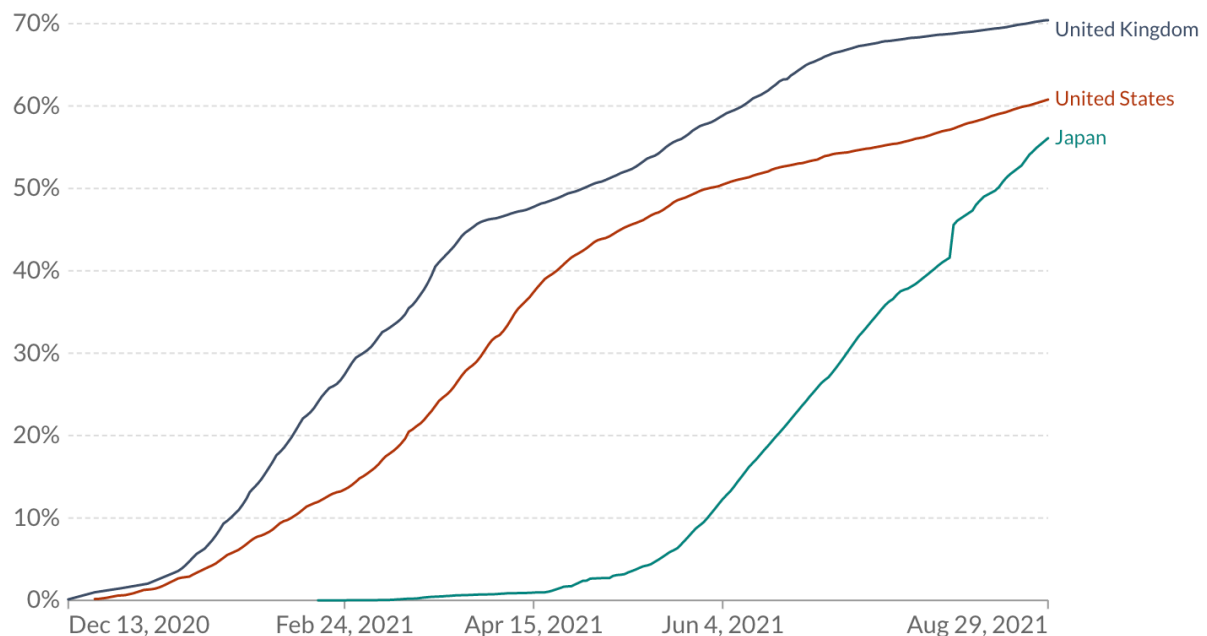
#### *Aichi (R 1.42)*



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### COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

*Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)*



Over 55% of the population have received at least one dose of a COVID 19 vaccine, raising the prospect that coverage will overtake that of the US within the next few weeks.

*Vaccines administered (7 day average of daily doses given)*



Average administration remains well over a million doses a day and demand seems to remain high, with few providers reporting unused vaccination slots.

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>