

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 7th 2021

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Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



Japan appears to be exiting its 5th wave.

The seven-day average of daily cases has fallen for ten days, with the reproduction rate (R number) dropping to its lowest level in almost two months.

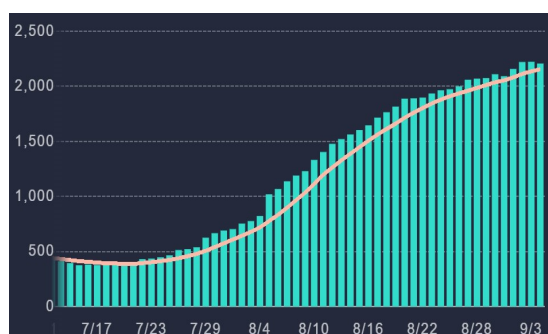
On a less positive note, critical care bed capacity remains under pressure and mortality continues to rise. This contrasts with previous waves, when mortality peaked relatively soon after case numbers, reflecting the different age profile of severely unwell patients, who are typically much younger than was the case in the first half of the year. Patients in their 40s and 50s are less likely to die soon after hospital admission and therefore typically remain in ICU for longer.

Strategies for safely exiting the current state of emergency are under consideration, with suggestions that from October, vaccinated individuals will no longer be discouraged from attending social gatherings or from travelling. Following its cancellation in late 2020, the “go to” campaign may be restarted, though conditions such as negative PCR testing or proof of vaccination might be required of participants.

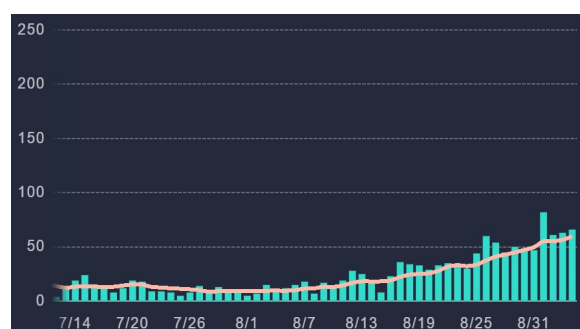
National Reproduction Rate - R_{eff} (R 0.83)



Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



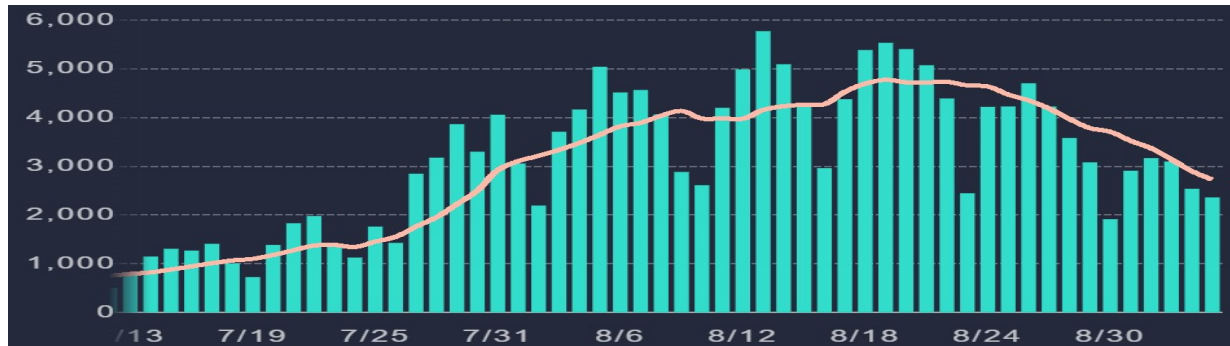
Mortality (Nationwide) - daily



Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 7th 2021

Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

Tokyo daily cases (R 0.76)

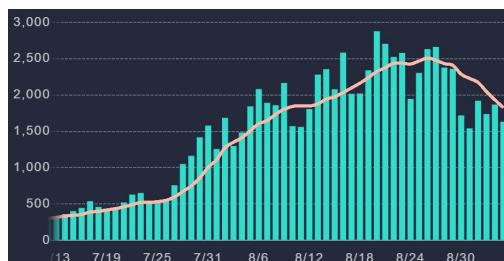


Chiba prefecture (R 0.87)



The current wave started in Kanto and accordingly, cases in Tokyo and its surrounding prefectures began falling here several days before the same trend became apparent at the national level. However, per capita levels of infection remain well above the national average and consequently, early indications are that the state of emergency will be extended across the region until late September or early October.

Kanagawa prefecture (R 0.81)



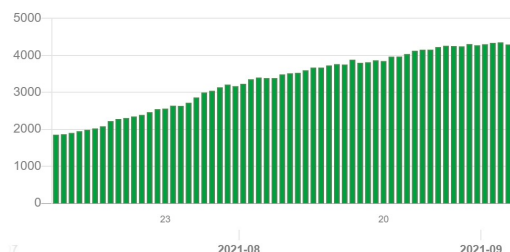
Saitama prefecture (R 0.80)



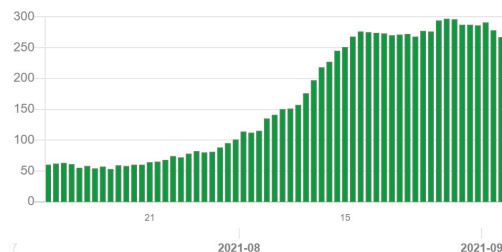
Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 7th 2021

Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

Number of hospital patients



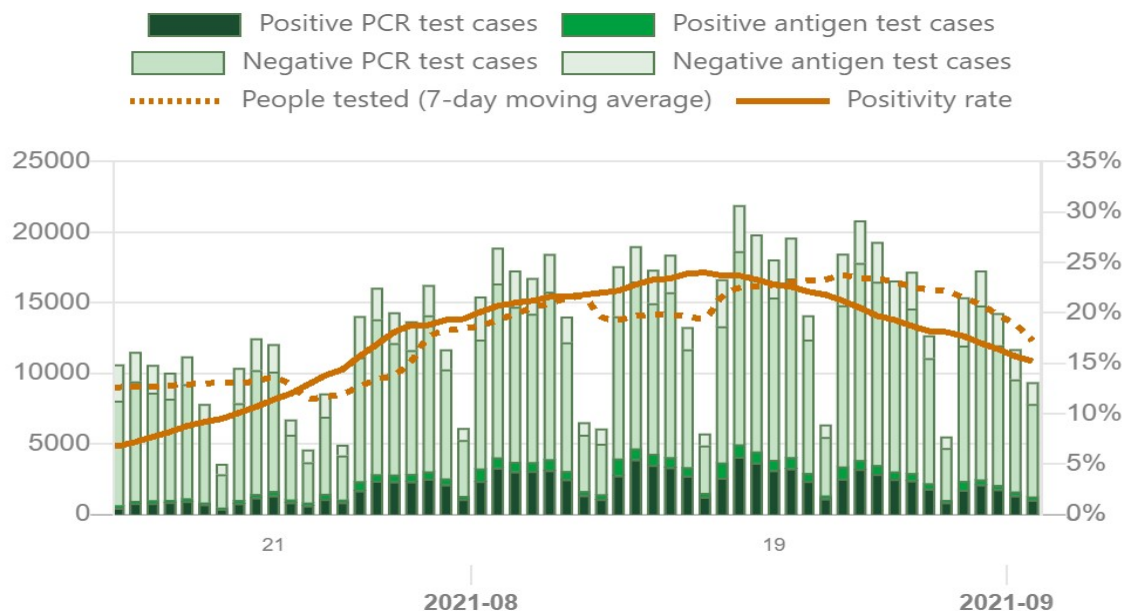
Number of critically ill patients



Hospital capacity was expanded in response to escalating need, with over 350 beds being added over the past week. Out of a total capacity of 6,319 COVID 19 designated beds, 4,215 (67%) are presently occupied. Admitting patients remains relatively challenging and though there are some early signs that in-patient numbers are stabilizing, the system is likely to remain on the highest level of alert for some time to come. Stepping down from red to amber would normally require more than 50% of available beds to be free.

The metropolitan government has also added an additional 100 intensive care beds over the past week, after doctors found it increasingly difficult to find vacancies for patients needing ventilation. The number of intensive care patients has fallen marginally over the past week, with 267 of 492 beds now reported to be occupied (54%).

Testing for COVID 19



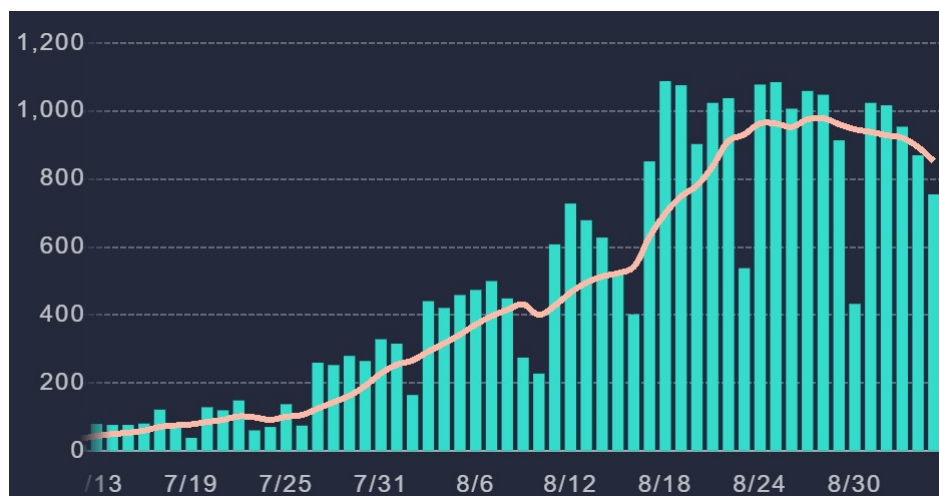
The rate of positive tests has continued to fall for the third consecutive week and now stands at 14%, from a peak of over 24%. This aligns with the observation that overall cases are falling.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 7th 2021

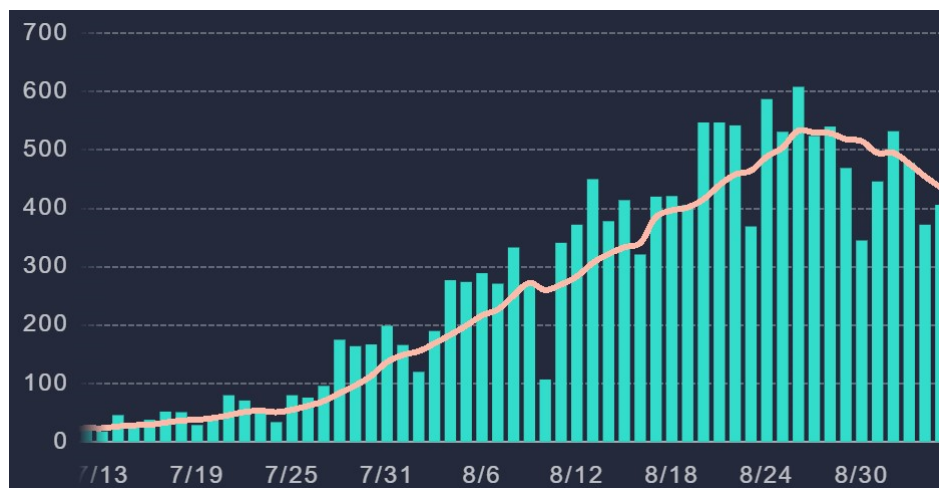
Regional Situation

33 of Japan's 47 prefectures remain under restrictions of some kind, of which 21 are under a state of emergency. All such measures are presently slated to end on the 12th of September, though extensions in many of these areas remain likely. Additional durations of between two and four weeks are being suggested for more problematic areas. This having been said, daily rates of infection are falling in all regions.

Hyogo (R 0.91)



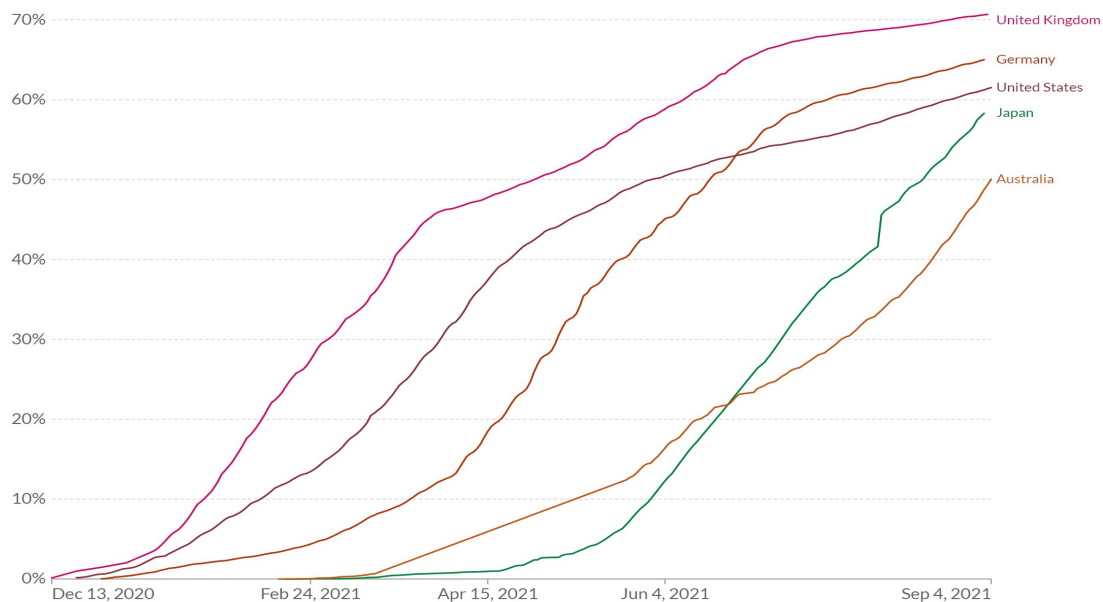
Kyoto (R 0.87)



Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 7th 2021

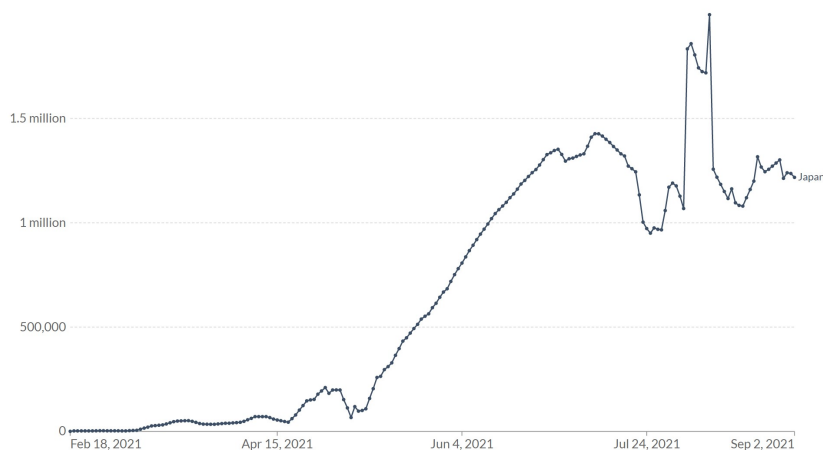
COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentage)



Almost 60% of the population have received at least one dose of a COVID 19 vaccine, with coverage now comparable to other OECD countries.

Vaccines administered (7 day average of daily doses given)



Japan's vaccine passport has now been recognized by Canada and France, with their addition, 34 countries and regions now accept the document. Each country makes different exceptions for those holding a vaccine passport, with most having some form of reduced quarantine for travelers.

The Japanese government intends to extend the operation of mass coronavirus vaccination centers in Tokyo and Osaka for another two months till late November. There will be a focus on vaccinating 18 to 39 years old as infections among younger people have become more frequent due to the delta variant.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, September 7th 2021

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>