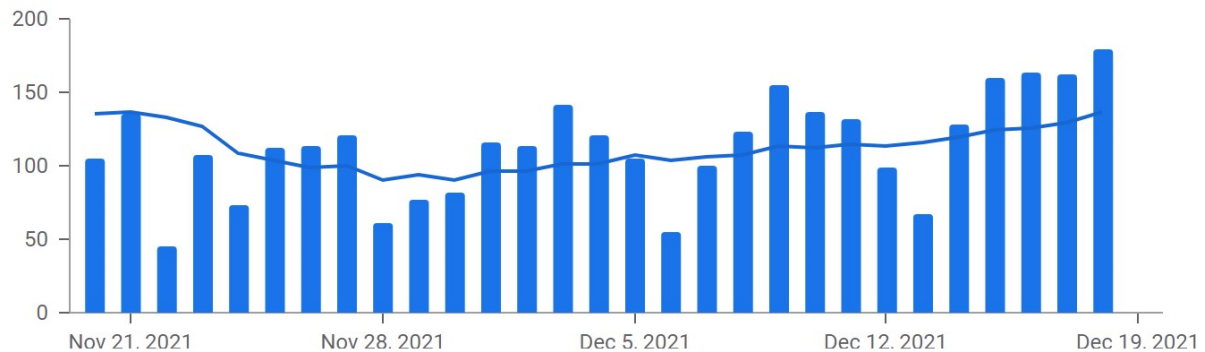


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Current Situation – Worldwide and Japan

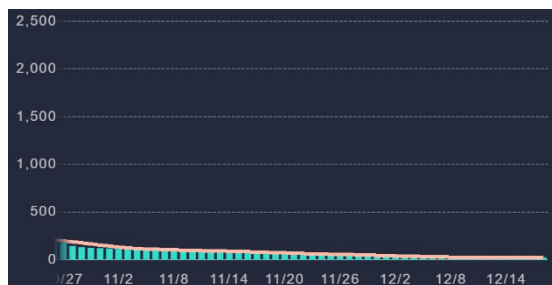
Japan - daily Infections (past 30 days)



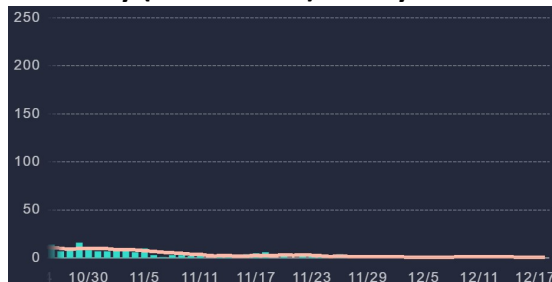
National Reproduction Rate – (R 1.11)



Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



Mortality (Nationwide) – daily total



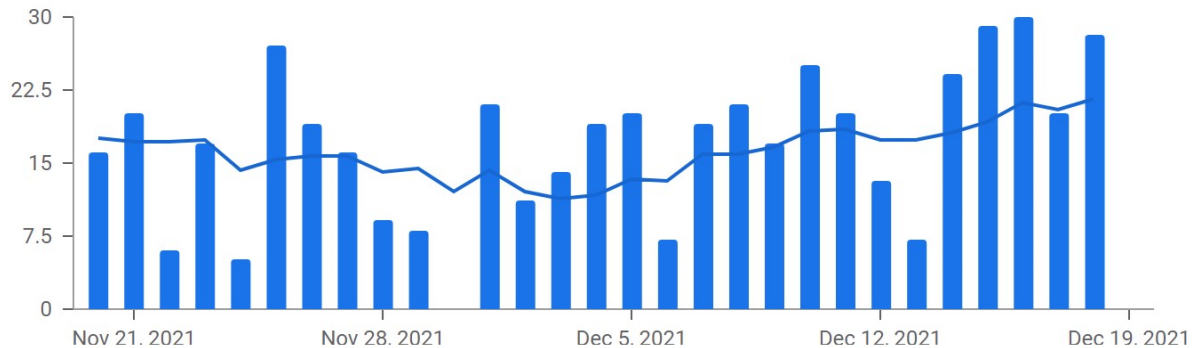
Infections in Japan have been gradually trending up with the 7-day average increasing from just under 100 in late November to 144 as of the 19th of December. This almost certainly represents a slow increase in transmission as population immunity falls because of time elapsed after vaccinations. So far there is no evidence of community transmission of the Omicron variant within Japan, though one Japanese national in Tokyo was recently infected by contact with a quarantining individual. The infected individual then attended a soccer game so more extensive transmission cannot be ruled out. Separately, a significant cluster of over 100 cases has been identified within camp Hester, a US military base in Okinawa and a Japanese national who worked on base has been found to be infected with the Omicron variant.

As Omicron spreads, infections are rising rapidly in many countries with much of Europe introducing tighter controls to mitigate the effect on healthcare provision. Cases in the UK are doubling every three days and are suspected to run into tens of thousands per day.

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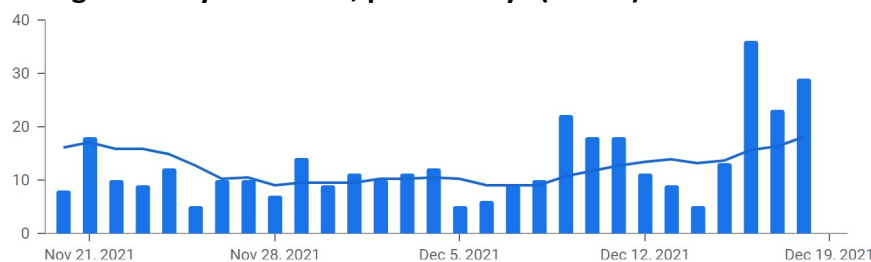
Tokyo and the surrounding Kanto region

Tokyo daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.12)

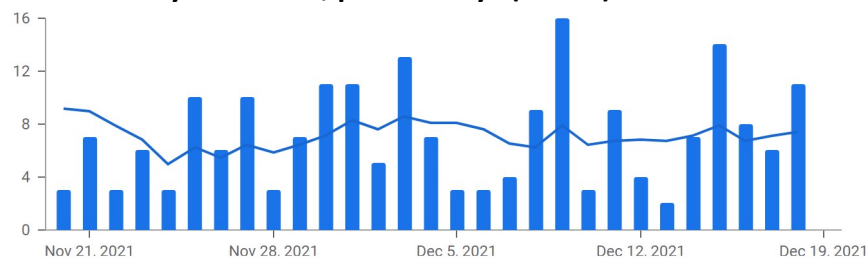


Although per capita infections in the capital remain historically low at 1.26 per 100,000 population per week, there has been a steady increase in contagion throughout December, with a reproduction number of over 1.0 for the past ten days. Because of infections increasing more rapidly here than in other parts of Japan, Tokyo and neighbouring Kanagawa prefecture (which includes Yokohama) now have the highest per capita infection rates for large urban areas in Japan.

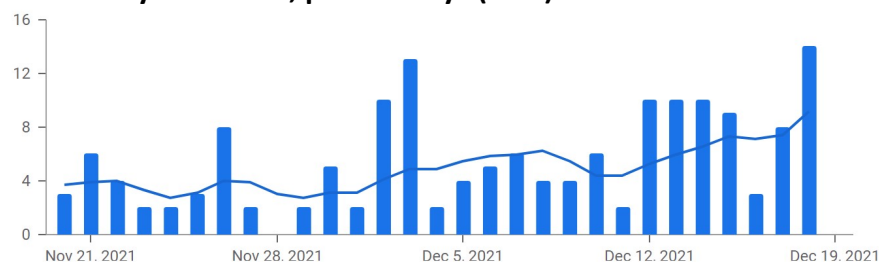
Kanagawa daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.35)



Saitama daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.07)

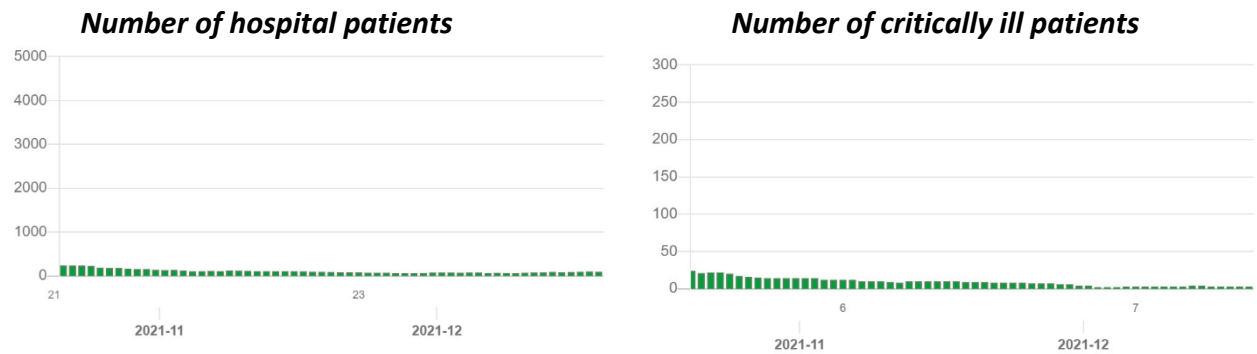


Chiba daily infections, past 30 days (1.66)



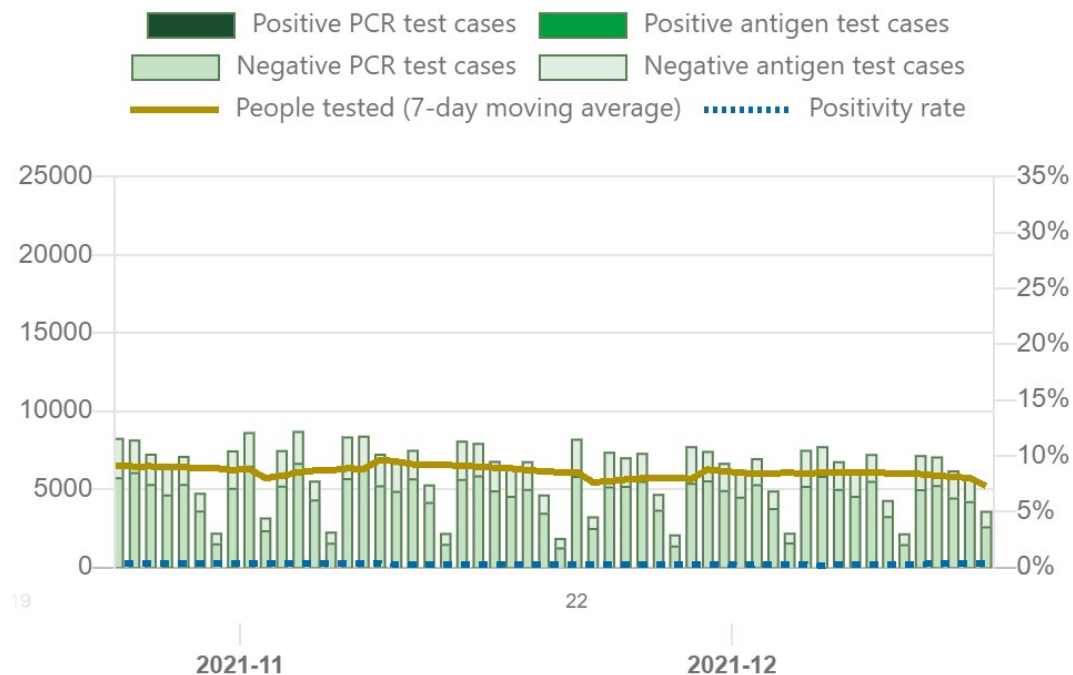
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo



Hospital bed occupancy remains very low - presently 119 out of 6,891 (1.7%) of designated beds are occupied. 3 of 510 available intensive care beds are now reported to be occupied (0.6%). Numbers of routine care and intensive care beds designated for COVID 19 patients were increased by about 50% at the start of the month, in anticipation of a rise in demand should spread of the Omicron variant lead to a further wave of severe infections.

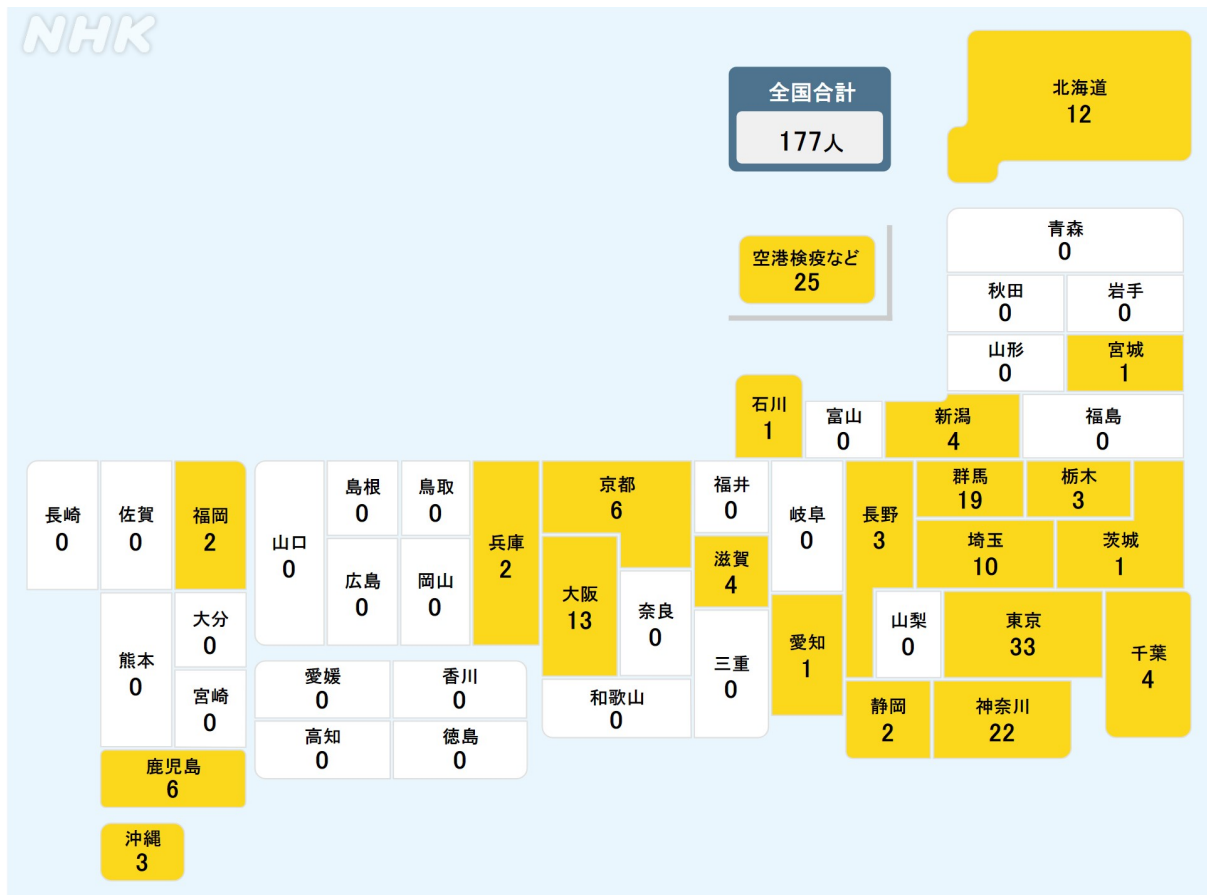
Testing for COVID 19



The rate of positive tests has increased from 0.3 to 0.5% over the past week, the first rise since the 5th wave and an early sign that the number of cases is set to rise further over coming weeks.

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Regional Situation

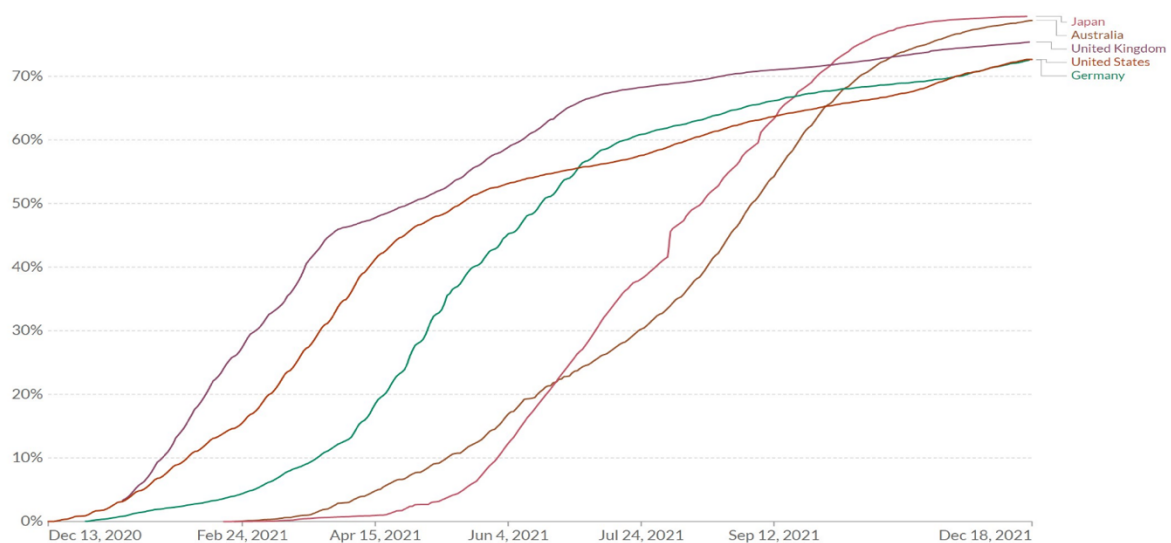


Gunma and Niigata continue to record the highest numbers of infections on a per capita basis, with Gunma now reporting a 7-day average of 8.24 new cases per 100,000 population per day, more than six times higher than the rate seen in Tokyo. Beyond these two prefectures and the neighbouring Kanto region, most infections are seen in Kansai (Osaka, Hyogo and Kyoto) and also in Hokkaido. Many rural areas in northern and western Japan continue to record no new cases.

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COVID 19 Vaccinations in Japan

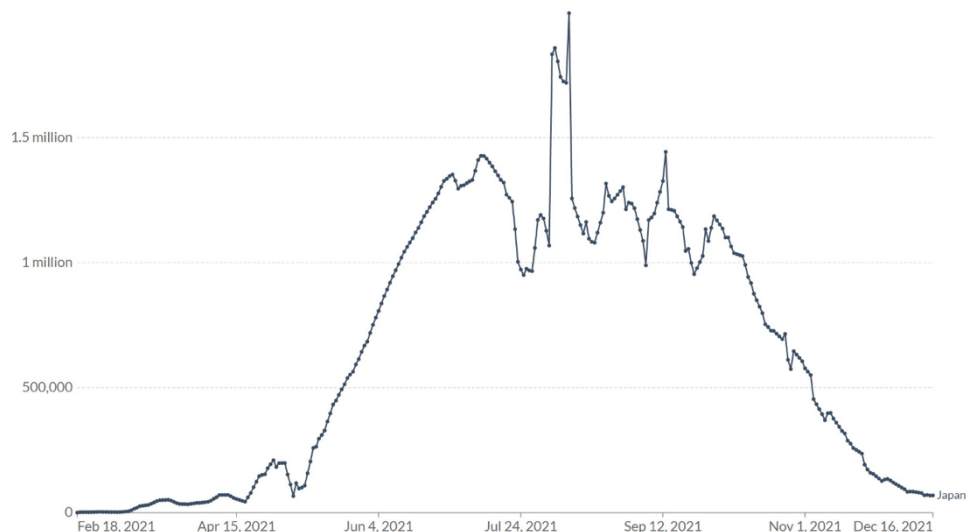
Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentages)



New uptake of vaccines has largely ceased with 78% of the population fully vaccinated and 79% having received a single dose, unchanged since last week. Administration of booster doses is underway but is proceeding at an undesirably slow pace given the high probability of a new wave of infections driven by the Omicron variant.

The government recently launched a smartphone app that allows people to show proof of vaccination. The app is called the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate Application and is available on both iPhone and Android. The app displays the number of doses, dates of inoculation, and vaccine manufacturer. In order to obtain certification on the app citizens will need a My Number card which needs to be applied for. When using the app for international travel users will need to input passport data in addition to the My Number card. The app is expected to be used as a way to loosen Covid restrictions on the vaccinated.

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



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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>