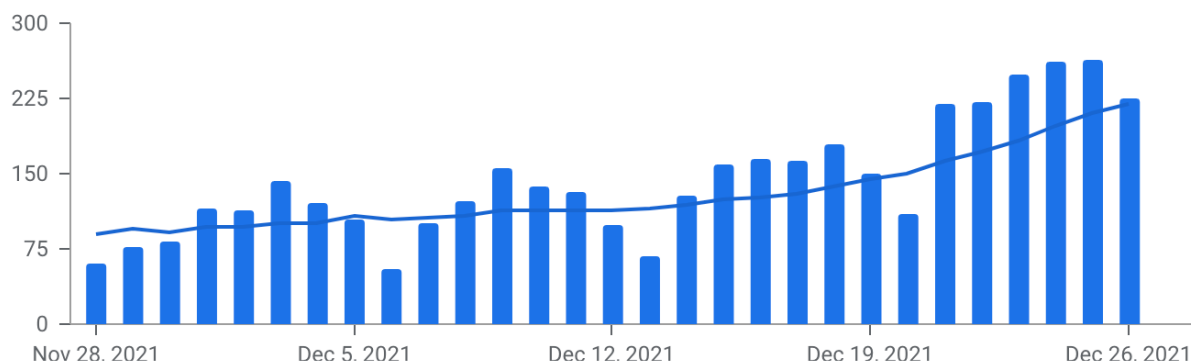


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Current Situation – Japan

Japan - daily Infections (past 30 days)

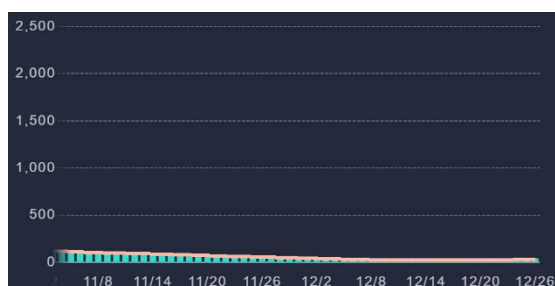


National Reproduction Rate – (R 1.35)

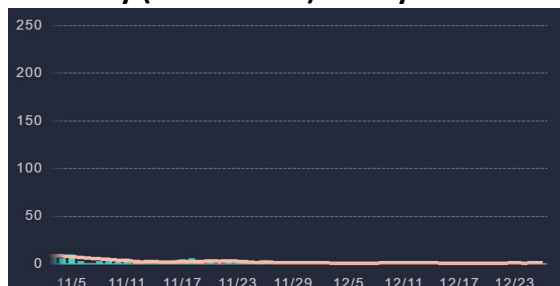


Community spread of the Omicron variant has occurred in seven prefectures – Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Fukuoka, Aichi, Hiroshima and Toyama have all identified cases with no known link to overseas travel. Ten other prefectures have cases of Omicron infections occurring in returnees or in those who have contacted infected travellers. Performing and reporting genetic sequencing of known COVID 19 cases typically takes several days, and many milder cases of omicron variant are likely not to be identified, so the true level of infections with the new variant is likely to be significantly higher. As such, a rapid rise in infections in January is to be expected.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



Mortality (Nationwide) – daily total

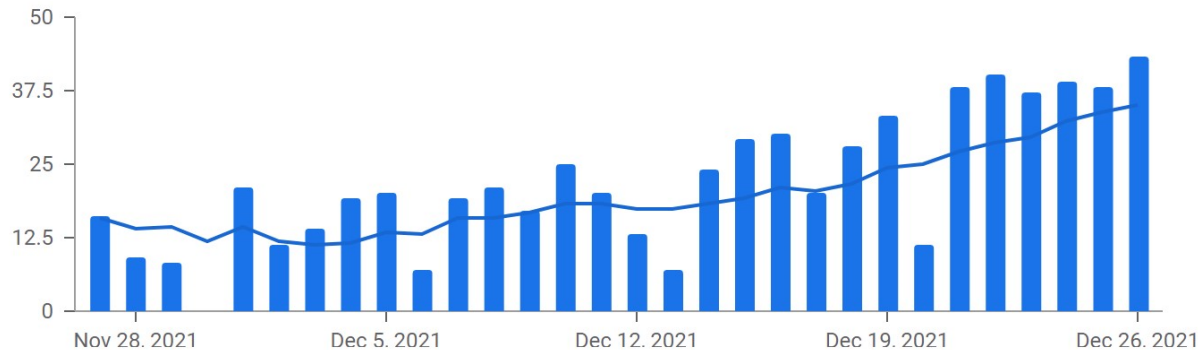


Presently, infections remain sparse but have doubled in the past 18 days. Omicron variant cases may be partially responsible for this, but the main cause is probably waning immunity in the increasing number of people who received their primary series vaccinations over 6 months ago. Critical illness (intensive care cases) has risen marginally, from 25 in mid-December to 44 as of now, a level which will not appreciably strain medical resources.

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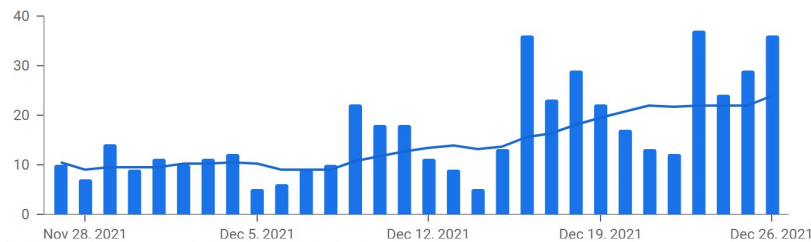
Tokyo and the surrounding Kanto region

Tokyo daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.3)

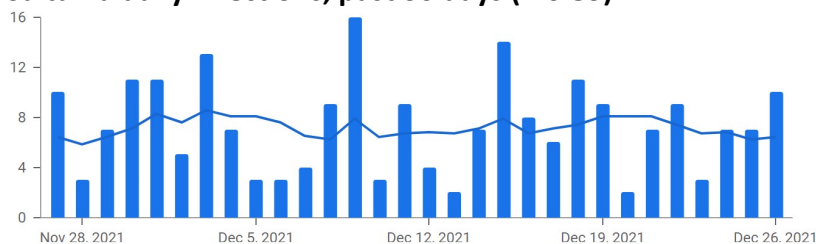


Cases remain very low when compared to previous peaks of infection, with daily totals of 50 or below as compared to over 5,000/day during the summer peak caused by the delta strain. However, the reproduction rate is rising steadily and with the addition of increasing community spread of the omicron variant, a substantial increase in the burden of disease is to be expected in the coming weeks.

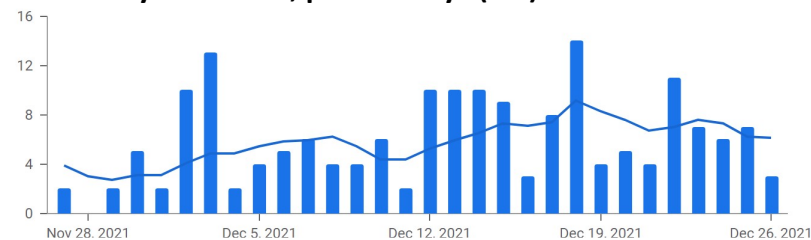
Kanagawa daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.13)



Saitama daily infections, past 30 days (R 0.83)

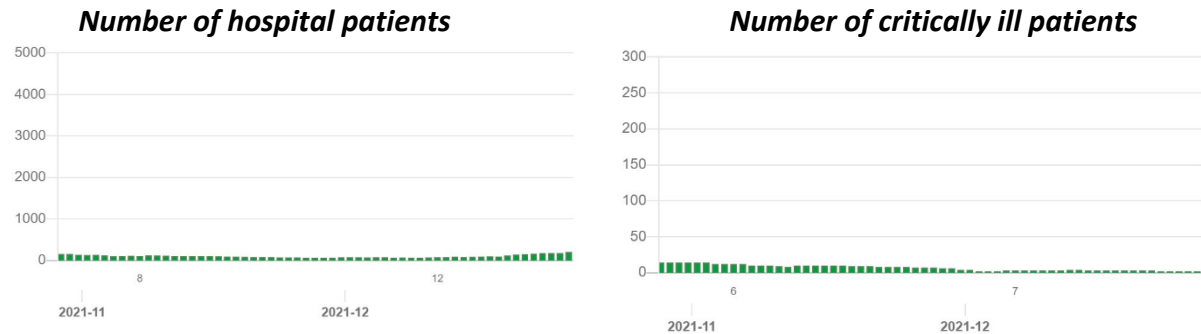


Chiba daily infections, past 30 days (0.8)



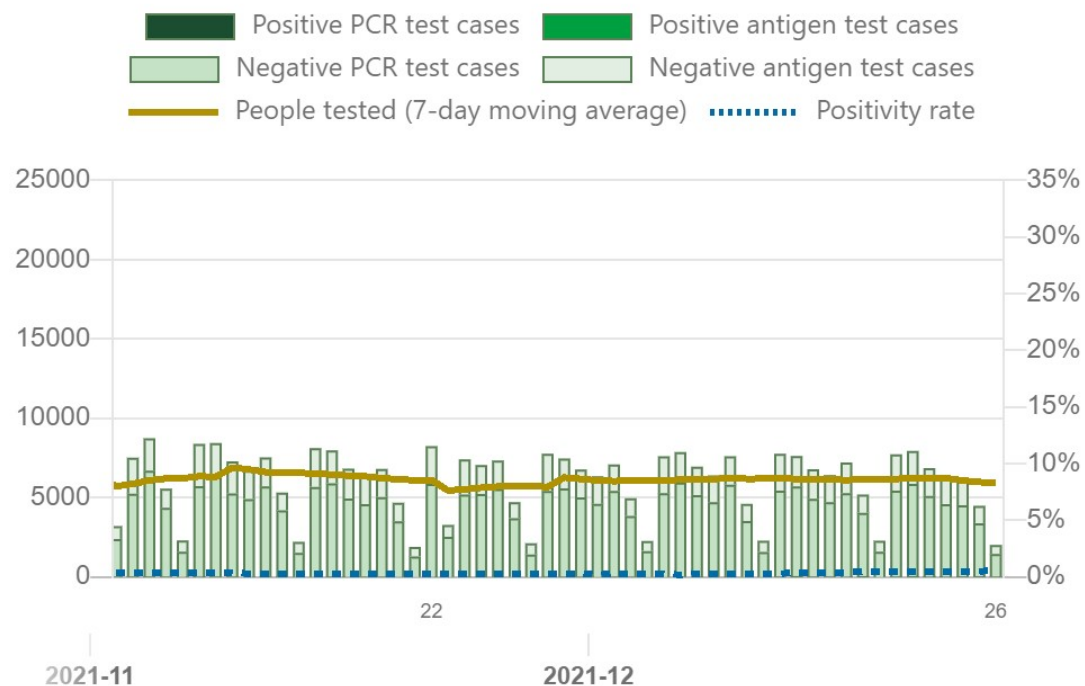
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo



Hospital bed occupancy is rising but remains very low - presently 202 out of 6,918 (2.9%) of designated beds are occupied. 2 of 510 available intensive care beds are now reported to be occupied (0.4%). 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.

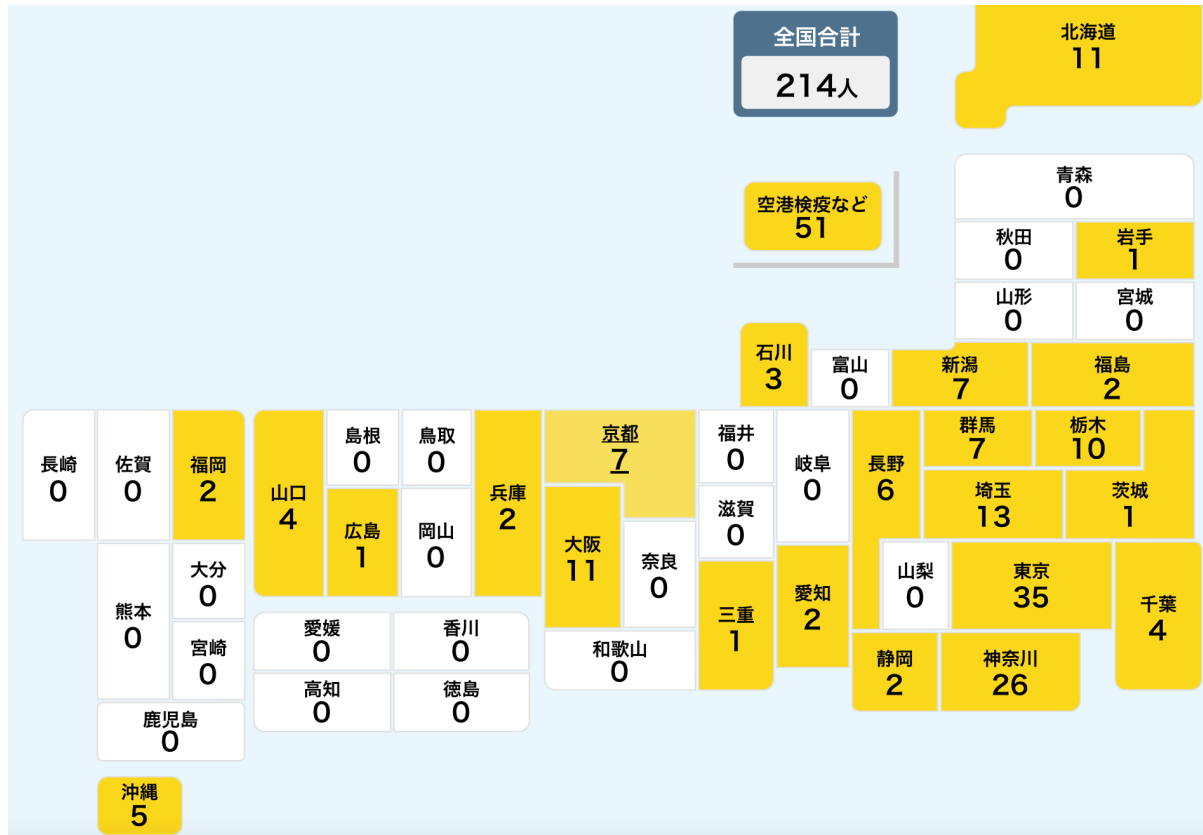
Testing for COVID 19



The rate of positive tests continues to trend upwards gradually, with an increase from 0.5% to 0.6% of tests performed over the past week. Testing continues at approximately 5,000 per day, these figures excluding the large numbers of screening tests performed by individuals or companies for screening or travel.

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Regional Situation

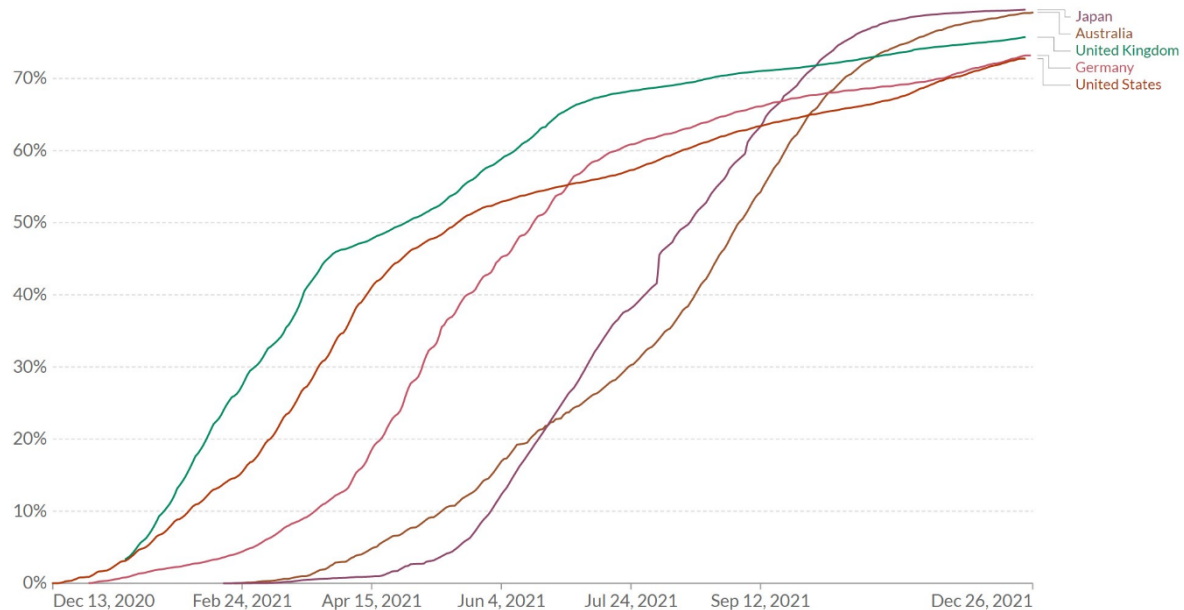


Beyond the Kanto region, higher levels of transmission are occurring in Kansai (Osaka and Kyoto) and in Hokkaido and Okinawa. Gunma and Niigata continue to report relatively more cases than most other rural prefectures. Many more rural prefectures continue to be free of COVID 19, however.

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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. 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. Presently a little over 468,000 people, representing 0.4% of the population, have received a third dose, despite vaccine stocks reported at 38 million doses. The designated interval between primary series and booster administration has been reduced to 6 months for medical workers and highly vulnerable populations but remains at 8 months for the general population in most areas.

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>