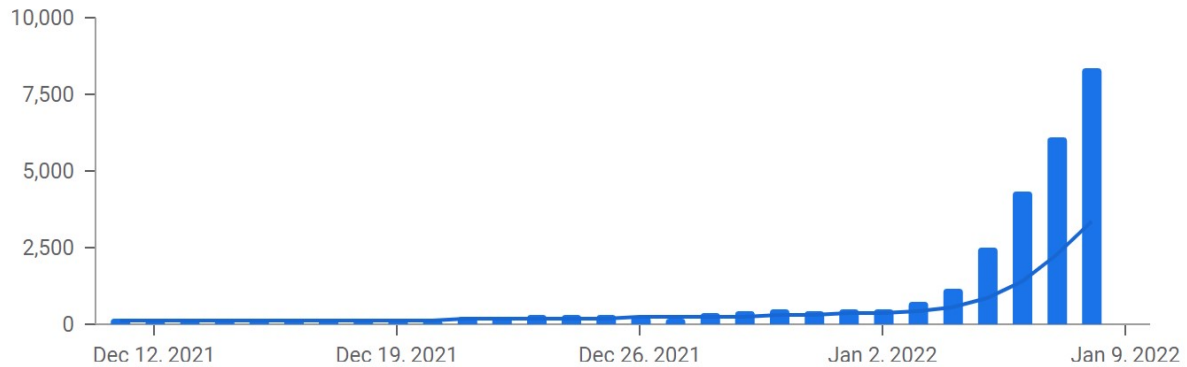


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 11th 2022

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Current Situation – Japan

Japan - daily Infections (past 30 days)

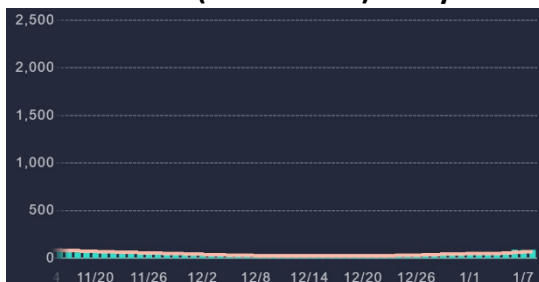


National Reproduction Rate – (R 5.05)



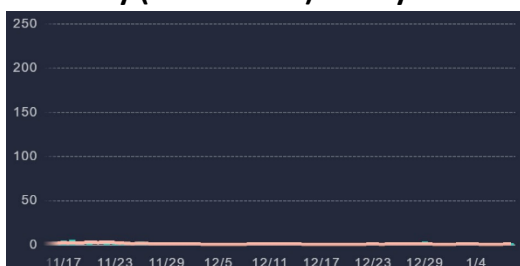
An unprecedented increase in cases has occurred over the past seven days, a consequence of the dissemination of the omicron variant. Other contributory factors include high domestic travel rates over the new year and a rise in testing as hospitals resume normal work after the end of year holidays. Finally, there has been a relaxation in the requirement to record a new infection, with positive rapid home tests now accepted as proof by health units.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



Hospitalizations remain well below the levels seen during the 5th (summer 2021) wave caused by the delta variant. Presently fewer than 100 COVID 19 patients are admitted to intensive care units. It is likely that younger people are disproportionately being infected in the current early stages of this new wave, in addition to which severe disease will typically develop several days after infections are detected. This means that there is some potential for the pressure on medical infrastructure to mount over the course of January, especially as many medical workers have not yet received their booster shots. However, it is to be hoped that this wave will result in much lower rates of death and critical illness as compared to earlier waves, duplicating the pattern seen elsewhere.

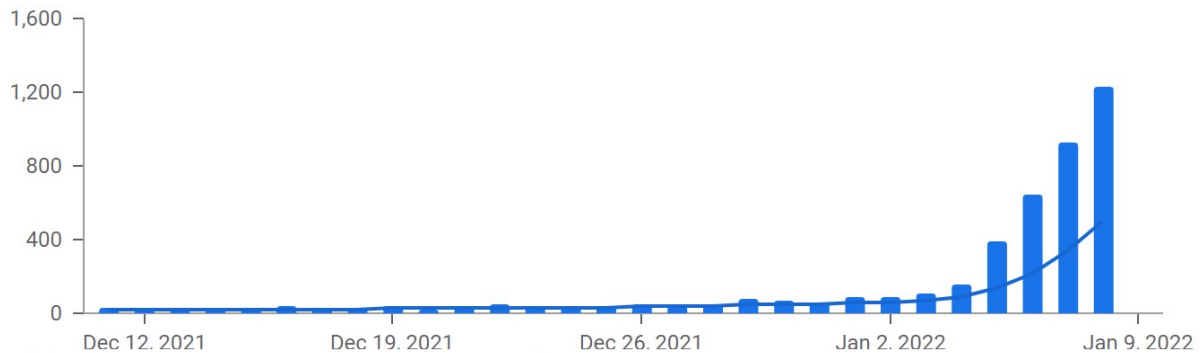
Mortality (Nationwide) – daily total



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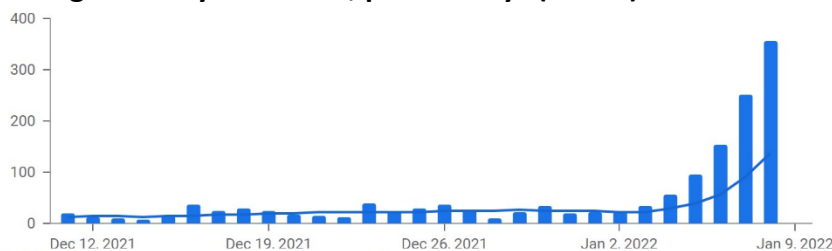
Tokyo and the surrounding Kanto region

Tokyo daily infections, past 30 days (R 4.55)

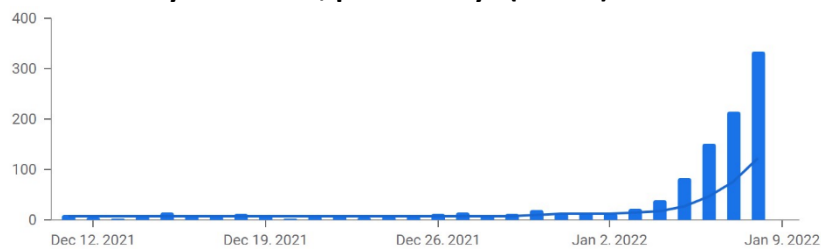


Infections are rising on a similar trajectory to that seen across the country, with a factor of ten increase having occurred in the past week, taking new cases to over 1,000 per day. The same escalation is occurring across the region with a very high probability of still higher case numbers to come. Telephone call centres and local health units are experiencing very high call volumes and may therefore experience delays over the coming weeks.

Kanagawa daily infections, past 30 days (R 3.53)



Saitama daily infections, past 30 days (R 5.08)

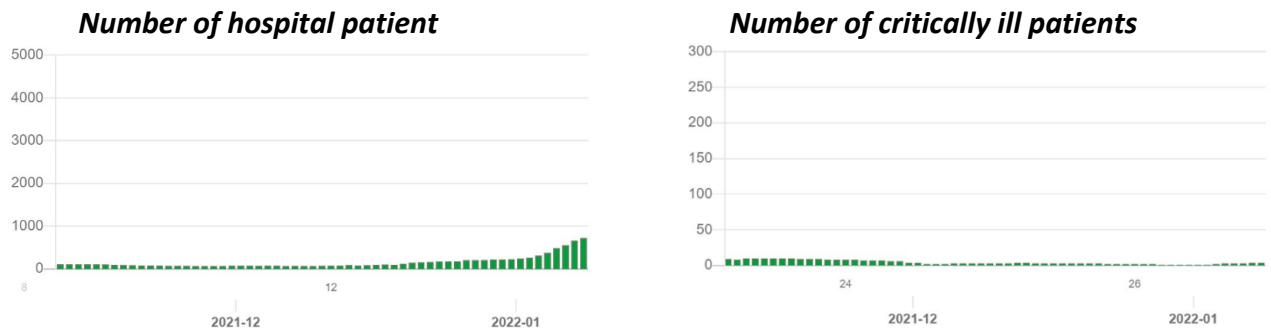


Chiba daily infections, past 30 days (5.22)



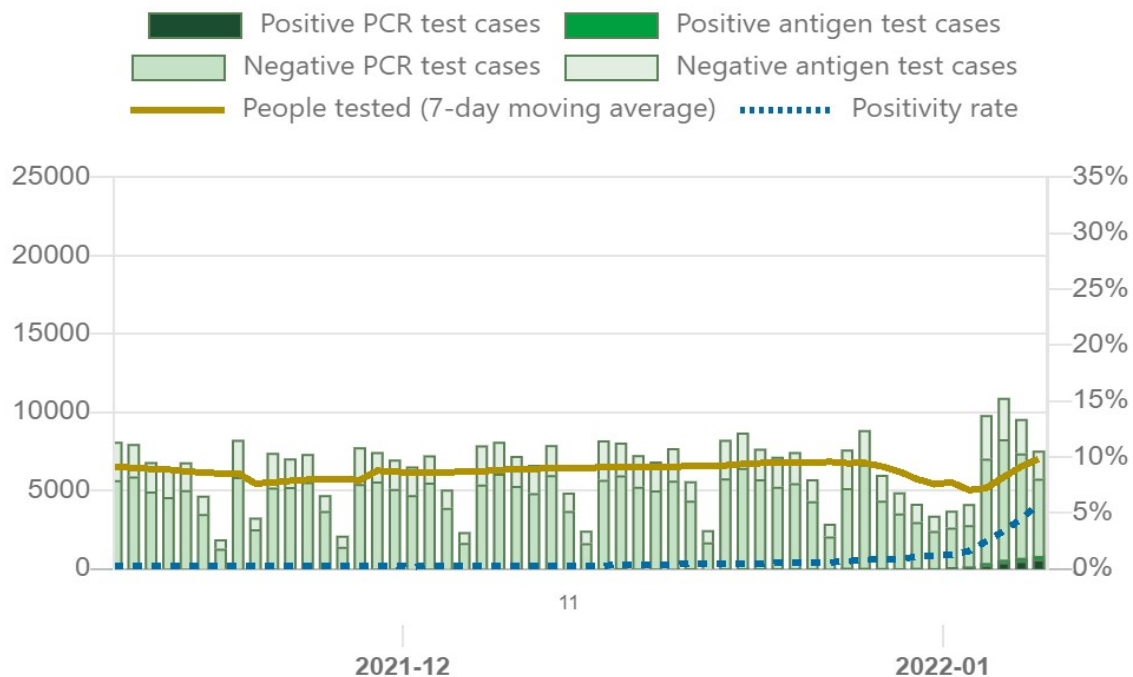
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo



Hospital bed occupancy is rising - presently 767 out of 6,919 (11.1%) of designated beds are filled. Only 4 of 510 available intensive care beds are reported to be occupied (0.8%), though. Some members of the foreign community remain hesitant to contact medical services due to concerns that they may face mandatory hospitalization should they test positive for COVID 19 and be found to have the omicron variant. However, no such hospitalization mandate is presently in place.

Testing for COVID 19



The rate of positive tests has increased from 1.3% to 5.8% over the past week, against a background of increasing testing. However, as the total number of tests recorded does not include home testing with rapid antigen kits, this reported number is no longer an accurate measure of the true volume of testing.

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Regional Situation

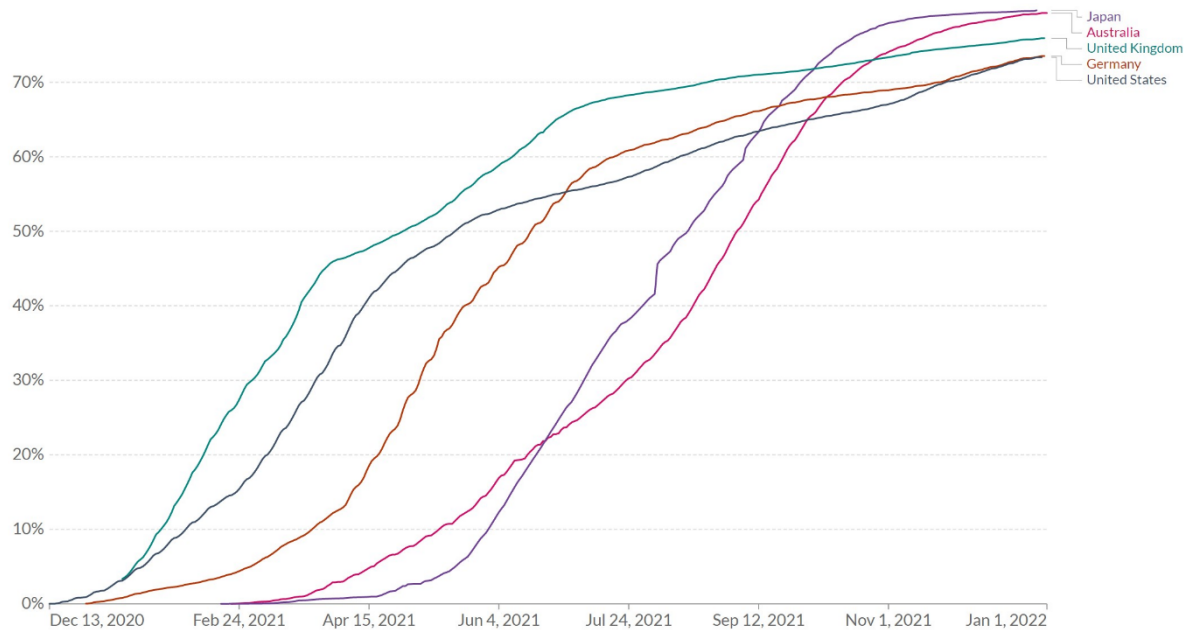


A quasi-state of emergency has been declared in three prefectures. Okinawa continues to report the highest per capita rates of infection in the country following likely spread of omicron variant COVID into the general population from US bases. Over 500 infections per 100,000 population per week are presently being reported there. Hiroshima and neighbouring Yamaguchi prefectures have also been subjected to infection control measures which will allow limitations to be placed on restaurant business hours and the sale of alcohol. As rates of infection in Osaka and Tokyo are only slightly lower than those recorded in these areas, further state of emergency declarations are to be anticipated.

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COVID 19 Vaccinations in Japan

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentages)



The administration of booster shots is proceeding at a frustratingly slow pace, meaning that the potential for these additional vaccines to reduce serious illness from omicron is dissipating. Presently, 0.7% of the population (a little under 880,000 people) have had three immunizations, with daily rates far below those seen over the summer:

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>