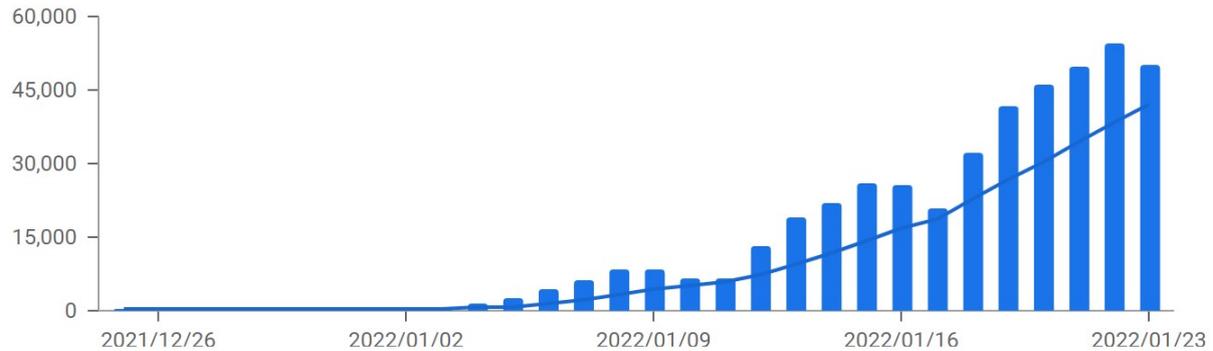


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 25th 2022

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Current Situation – Japan

Japan - daily Infections (past 30 days)



National Reproduction Rate – (R 2.04)



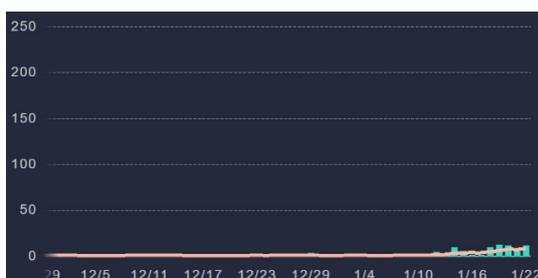
New infections continue to rise. Although the national relative reproduction rate has declined, it remains over 2.0, indicating that cases are doubling every 5-7 days. Given the highly contagious nature of the omicron variant, daily infections may exceed 100,000 within the next week, unless emergency measures have a significant impact.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



On a positive note, the rate of critical illness (intensive care occupancy) has risen much less than in previous waves. Last summer the delta variant started to spread in mid-July and within 4 weeks the number of critically ill patients had more than tripled from a little over 500 to more than 1,600. During the first 23 days of this month, critically ill patients have increased by less than 400. This allows for a degree of optimism that omicron will result in a similar pattern of disease to that seen in South Africa and Europe, where milder cases predominated, and medical resources were under less strain than anticipated.

Mortality (Nationwide) – daily total

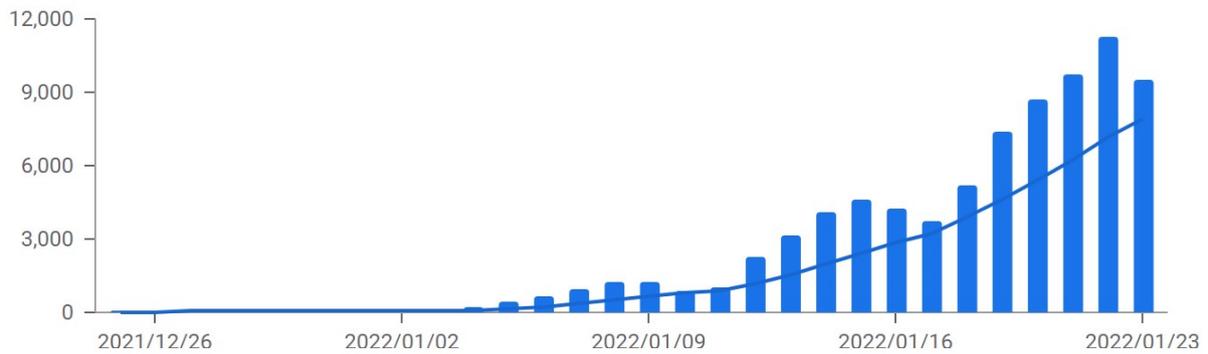


As Omicron is now widely disseminated, tight border controls barring entry to foreign nationals (excluding existing residents) appear less meaningful. The head of Japan's business federation (Keidanren) called for restrictions to be lifted at a press conference this week.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 25th 2022

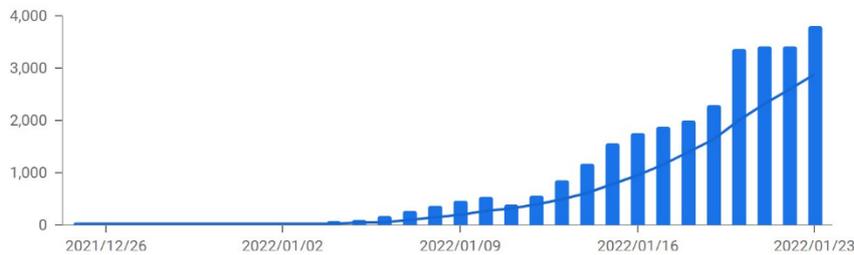
Tokyo and the surrounding Kanto region

Tokyo daily infections, past 30 days (R 2.16)

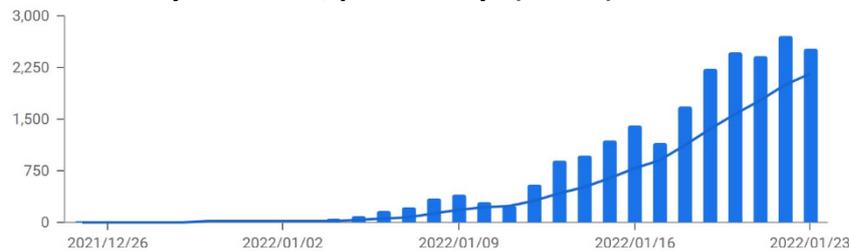


Record numbers of infections have been reported both in the capital and across the Kanto region, with Tokyo seeing over 10,000 new cases in a single day for the first time on the 22nd (Saturday). This is putting intense pressure on local health units, who are largely unable to contact trace and advise individuals or institutions except in higher risk settings. New onset fever call centres are likewise experiencing record demand with lengthening wait times resulting.

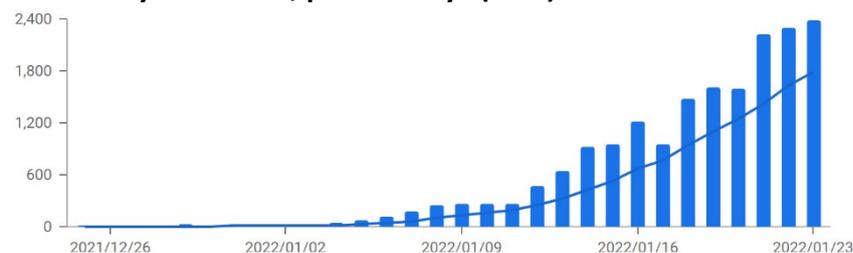
Kanagawa daily infections, past 30 days (R 2.36)



Saitama daily infections, past 30 days (R 2.25)

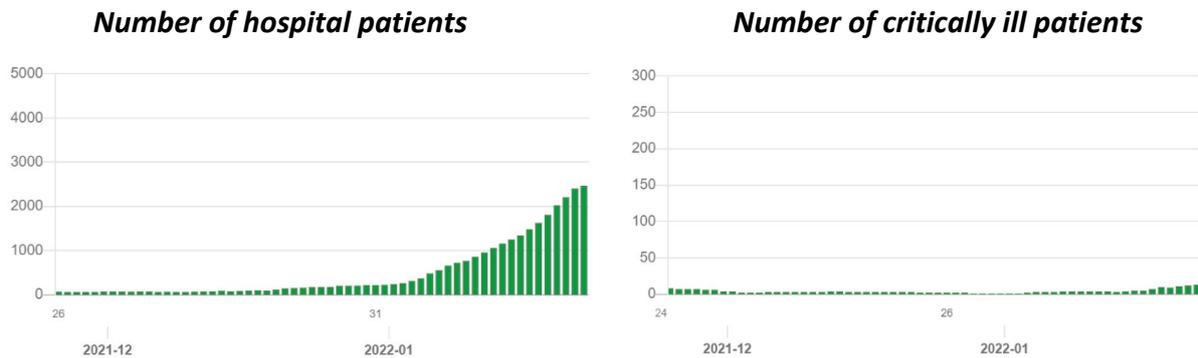


Chiba daily infections, past 30 days (2.22)



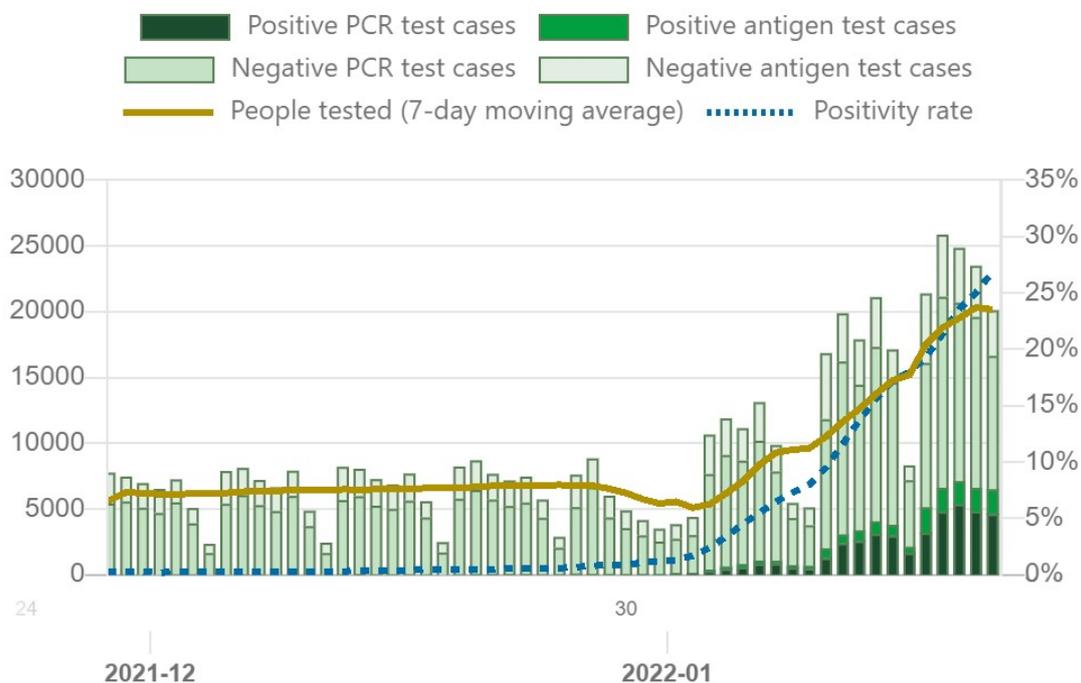
Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 25th 2022

Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo



Although hospital bed occupancy has risen significantly and now stands at 36.7% (2540 of 6919 beds in use), intensive care utilization remains very low by the standards of previous waves. Only 2.4% (12 out of 510) of beds are occupied. Given that a proportion of hospitalizations are precautionary – elderly or medically vulnerable individuals admitted for observations and or treatment against a possibility of deterioration – the current picture is again consistent with the omicron variant causing milder disease.

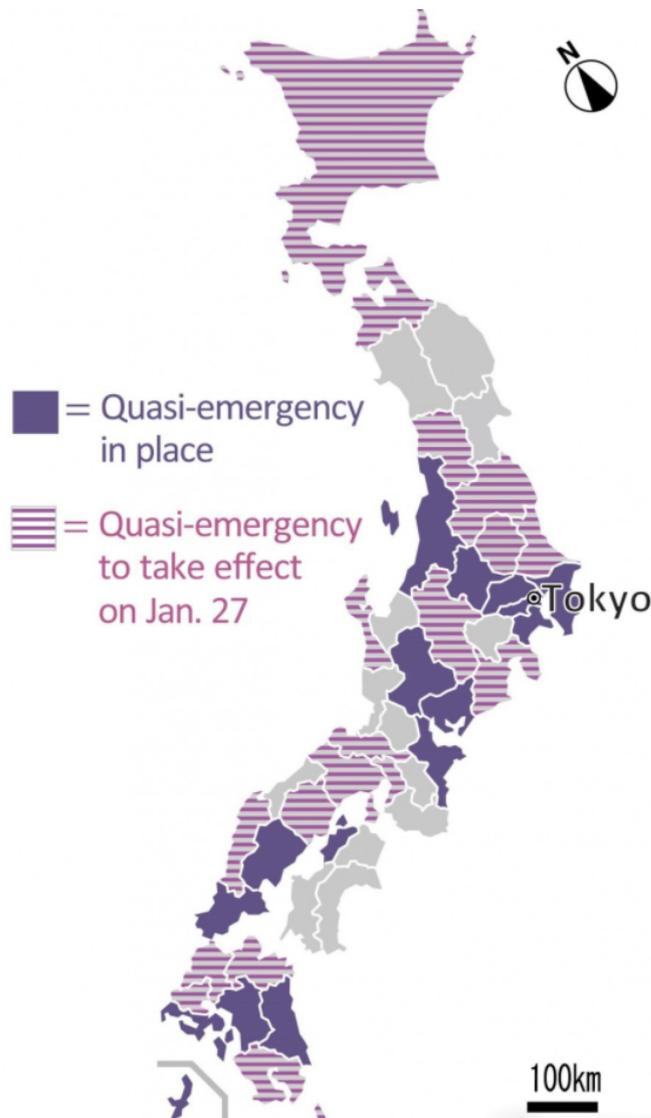
Testing for COVID 19



The rate of positive tests has risen to 28.1%, a record high seen against a background of significantly expanded testing. Antigen test kits are now widely and cheaply available and are being used extensively for home testing, so the true number of tests performed is clearly much higher than seen in these figures.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 25th 2022

Regional Situation



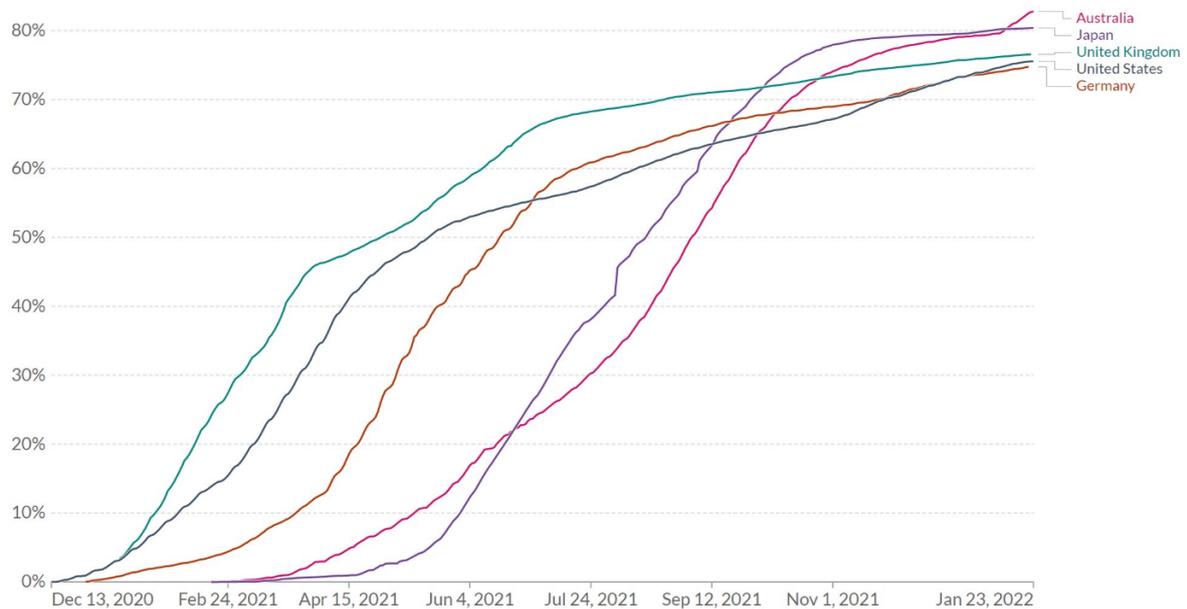
With infections surging across the whole country, the number of prefectures under a Quasi-emergency state will expand from 16 to 34 as of Friday the 27th of January. Measures are intended to remain in place until the 20th of February and will leave only a small number of less densely populated rural prefectures unaffected.

Case numbers are rising in 46 out of Japan's 47 prefectures. However, in Okinawa, the first prefecture to be significantly impacted by the current wave, infections have peaked and are beginning to decline ($R=0.89$). This occurred without excessive strain on medical resources and with far fewer intensive care admissions than in previous waves.

Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 25th 2022

COVID 19 Vaccinations in Japan

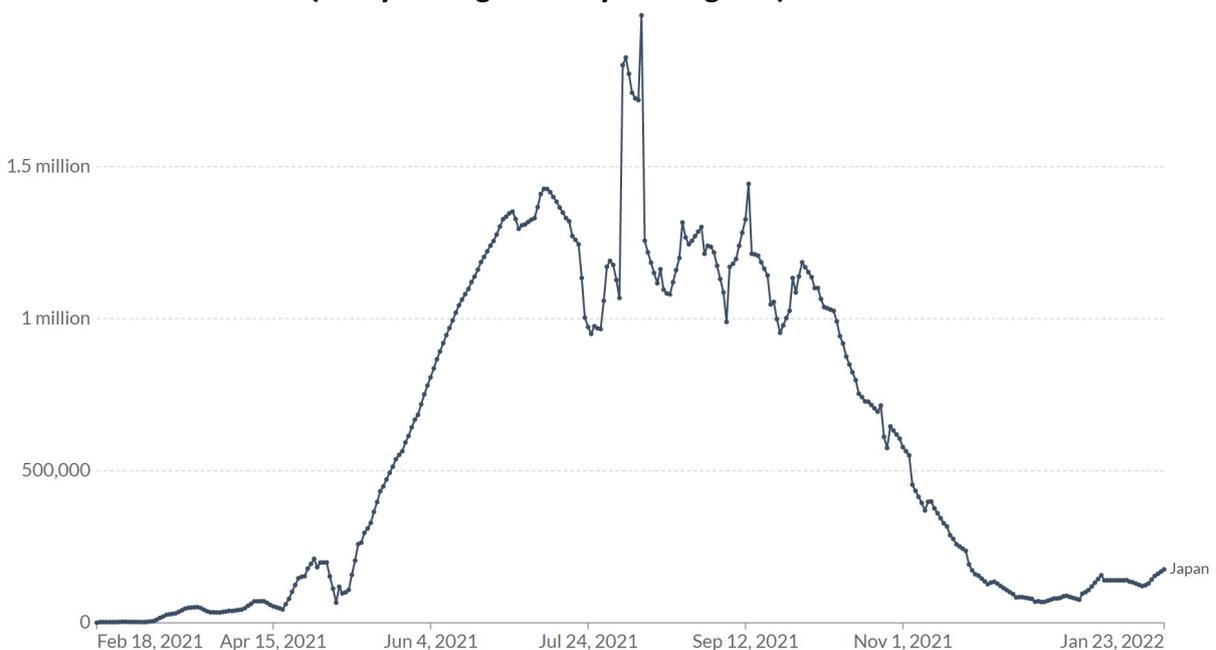
Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentages)



The rate of administration of booster doses continues to increase, though only slowly and with total daily doses given remaining below 300,000, as compared to over a million doses per day given between July and October. Presently 2.1% of the country have been given 3 doses, suggesting that even with a further increase in administration, booster shots will not meaningfully mitigate the current outbreak.

On Friday the 21st of Jan the Pfizer/BioNTech paediatric vaccine was approved by Japan's health ministry for children aged 5-11. Administration should commence in March.

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



Situation report – COVID19; Japan, January 25th 2022

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>