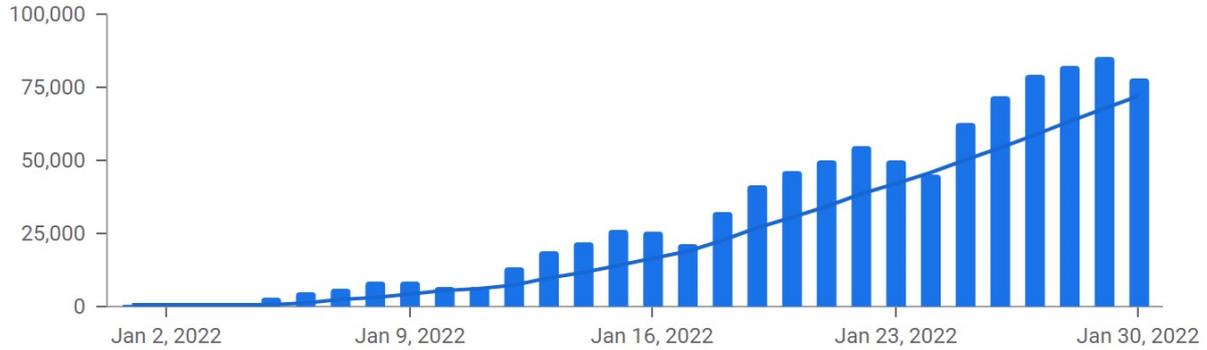


Situation report – COVID19; Japan, February 1st 2022

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Current Situation – Japan

Japan - daily Infections (past 30 days)

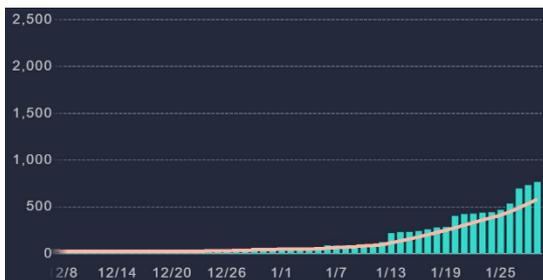


National Reproduction Rate – (R 1.49)



Although the rate of increase in new infections is declining, Japan's relative reproduction rate is falling more slowly than in previous waves, reflecting burgeoning contagion. Based on current trends new daily cases appear set to exceed 100,000 per day within the next week.

Critical Illness (Nationwide)- daily total



Reported rates of critical illness (intensive care admission) are rising, though figures are significantly distorted by much higher intensive care admissions in Osaka. As of Sunday the 30th of January, there were a total of 783 critically ill patients nationally of whom 460 were admitted to hospitals in Osaka. This means that 59% of critically ill patients are to be found in a city which accounts for about 15% of the total population. No clear reason has been given for this though some intensivists speculate that these figures reflect reporting differences or more relaxed criteria for intensive care admission, rather than a genuine difference in disease severity.

Mortality (Nationwide) – daily total

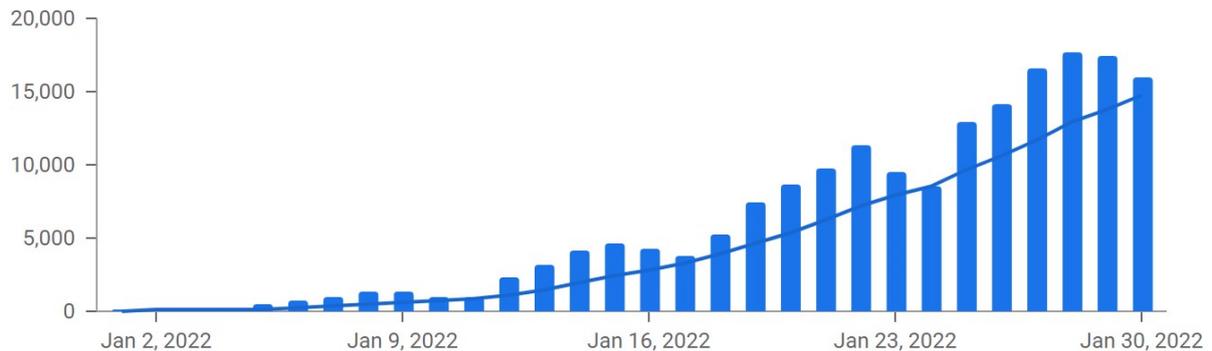


In response to the omicron variant's shorter incubation period and reduced pathogenicity, isolation periods for case contacts, asymptomatic patients and returning travellers have been reduced to 7 days.

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Tokyo and the surrounding Kanto region

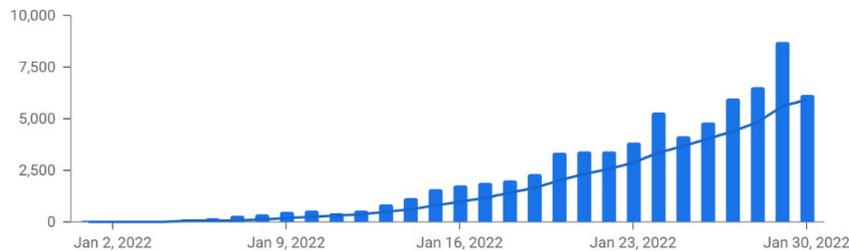
Tokyo daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.6)



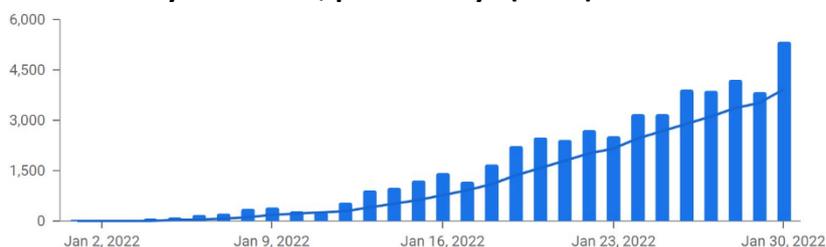
Over the past week, new daily infections have risen by approximately 50%, from about 10,000 to 15,000 per day, despite the quasi-emergency state currently in place. However, prime minister Kishida yesterday stated that he was not currently considering escalation to a full state of emergency.

Due to the very high volume of infections, health units will no longer automatically contact patients daily but will rather limit this service to people over 50 or those who have more severe symptoms. Other patients will have as needed access to medical advice at dedicated call centres.

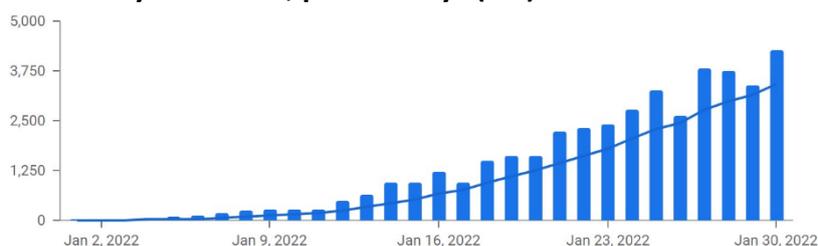
Kanagawa daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.74)



Saitama daily infections, past 30 days (R 1.5)



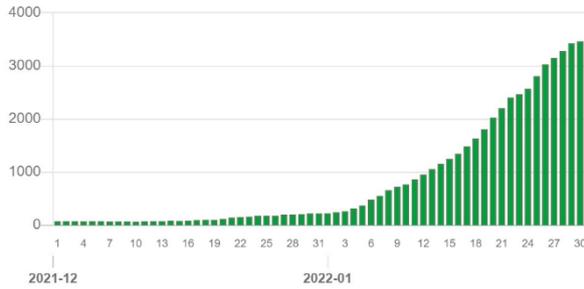
Chiba daily infections, past 30 days (1.6)



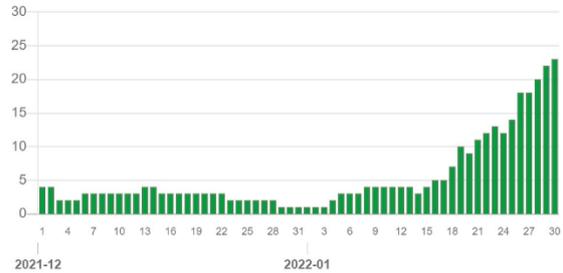
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Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

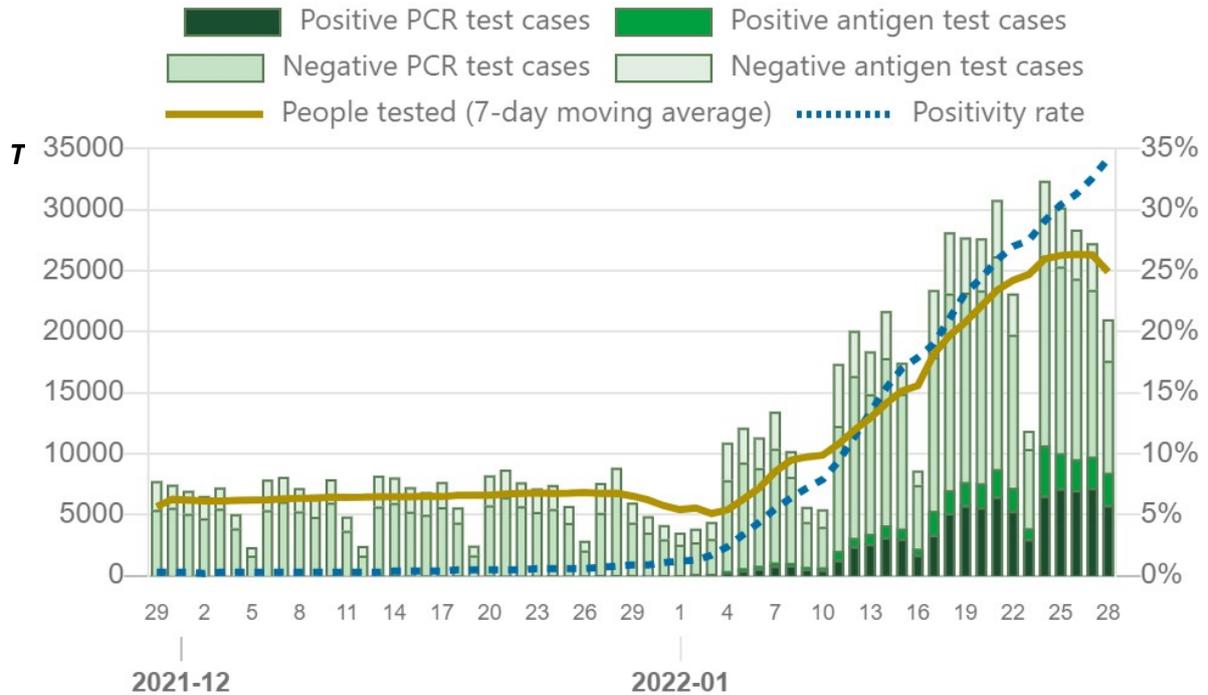
Number of hospital patients



Number of critically ill patients



Hospital bed occupancy continues to rise and now stands at 49.2% (3405 of 6919 beds in use). Intensive care utilization, on the other hand, is still very low by the standards of previous waves. Only 5.1% (26 out of 510) of beds are occupied.



The rate of positive tests continues to rise and now stands at 35.5%, a record high seen against a background of significantly expanded testing. Cheap and reliable rapid antigen test kits are now available for home use, so considerably more tests are being carried out independently. The metropolitan government has called for people who test positive at home to contact medical services so that they can be identified and monitored. This is, however, placing a significant strain on call centres set up to advise people with new infections, as arranging medical appointments for people with positive home tests can be challenging.

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Regional Situation



34 of Japan's 47 prefectures, accounting for most of the population, are currently under quasi-emergency measures, scheduled to remain in place until the 20th of February. Case numbers are rising in 45 prefectures, appear to be stabilizing in Hiroshima and are falling gradually in Okinawa.

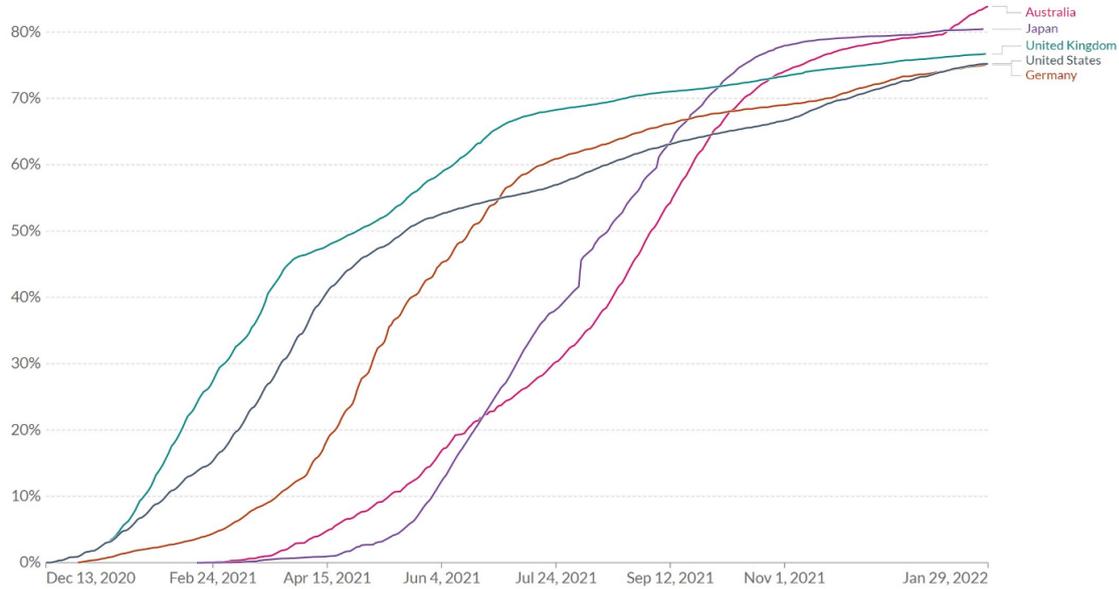
Okinawa ($R = 0.88$)



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COVID 19 Vaccinations in Japan

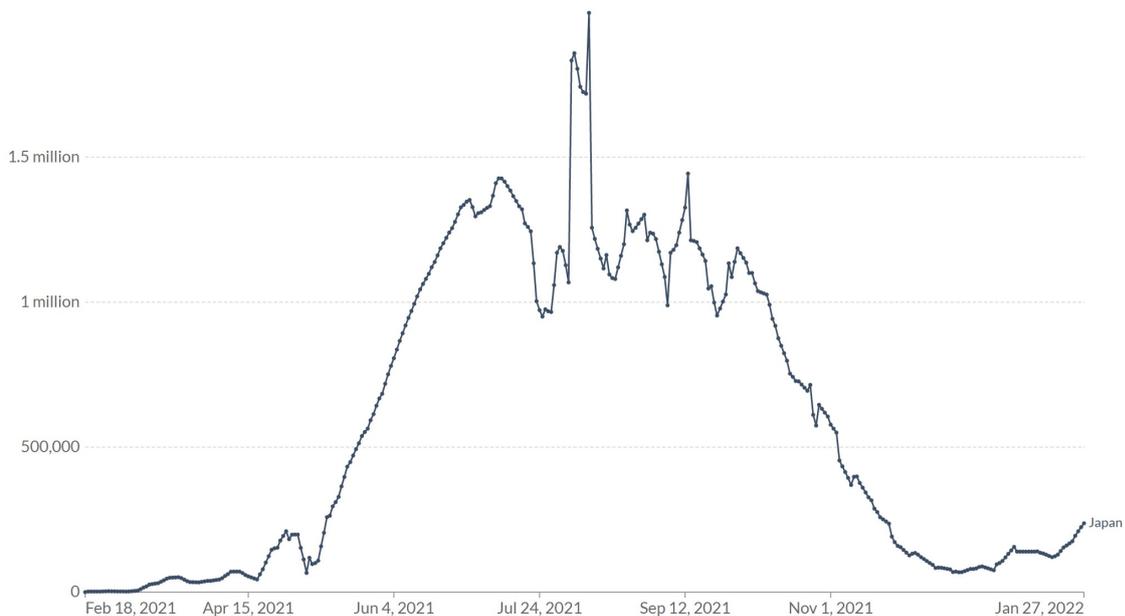
Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide, percentages)



Although the government continues to stress the need to prioritize the administration of boosters, effective action to implement this is lacking. Presently only 2.7% 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.

Mass vaccination centres have been re-opened in Tokyo and Osaka though are presently only offering a fraction of the number of daily doses that were administered in the summer. Tokyo's centre presently has 720 slots per day as compared to the (summer 2021) capacity of 10,000. Volume is scheduled to rise to 2,160/day from the 7th of February.

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>