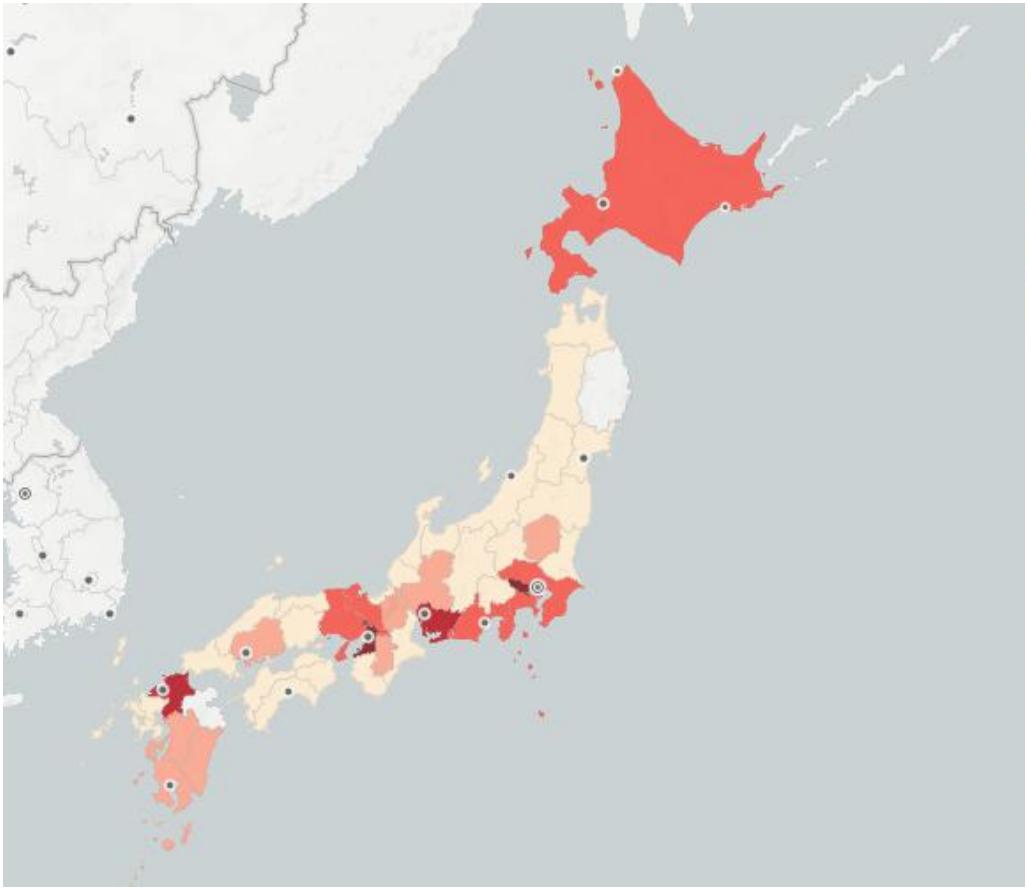


COVID-19 and Japan

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Latest covid-19 statistics:
(as of August 1, 2020)

- Infected 40,073
- Recovered 26,487
- Death 1,018
- Existing infected people
12,568

Tested 849,115 (4% positive)

Current infection status



Number of people new tested positive
(Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Office)

Updates on Covid-19 in Tokyo

Lower death rate per capita

- Health-consciousness
- Hygiene practices
- A sense of exceptionalism
- Different type from the others in other nations
- As-yet-unknown “factor X”

← There is no way of knowing who is infected with the virus sufficient PCR tests and the government had not tested people who are highly suspected of being infected.

Government policy: lax approach

Late response due to the ill effects of bureaucratic sectionalism

- Domestic bankruptcies: more than 10,000
- Business closures: about 30,000
 - ← supplementary budget + relief package
 - + financial support for business operation rent

Current government policy

While controlling Covid-19 transmission,

- Lifted the state of emergency and reopening its economy
- Striking a balance between the cost of saving lives and the cost to the economy of a prolonged shutdown
- Incentivize people to take a domestic travel under "Go To Travel" campaign
- Easing international travel ban on China, SK and others in Asia
- Relaxing guidelines for holding large sporting and other events
- Encouraging people to start a new working style, "wocration"

Vulnerable populations

- Single-parent families in lower living standards
- Service sector workers
- Temporary workers
- Migrant workers
- Sick and Injured people
- Medical experts and service workers, and their families
- Survivors recovering from the infection

Responses to the vulnerable

- Local level

Several municipalities provide benefits for single-parent households to ease their financial burden.

For the infected people at home, some delivers a box of foods and necessary goods for a couple of weeks.

- National level

A new Foreign Residents Support Center was established in Tokyo to give advice on employment, visas, law and humanitarian issues, which is operated by the eight organizations including Immigration Service Agency, Foreign Ministry, Japan Legal Support Center, the Japan External Trade Organization and the Tokyo Labor Bureau.

Health and Labor and Welfare Ministry constantly updates the information on assistance programs on its website, including grants, loans and moratoriums for payment which the vulnerable can benefit from.

The Ministry plans to conduct its first nationwide coronavirus-linked mental health survey because of the increasing cases of emotional distress, depression and other forms of mental stress.

Strengths and weaknesses of the stakeholders

Strengths

- ??

Weaknesses

- Bureaucratic system
- Health-care capacity (PCR, beds for the infected, medical workers)
- Fiscal capacity
- Collaboration with local governments
- Too much relying on people's voluntary restraint

Some recommendations

Local level

- Approve PCR tests using saliva to correctly perceive reality
- Secure medical resources (workers, beds, systems)
- Develop collaboration with each other

National level

- Stop distinguishing between regular and nonregular workers
- Conduct data-based analysis → Provide accurate information
- Build a system where more PCR tests can be done, carry out PCR tests to protect health care system other than shutting schools and businesses
- Develop cooperation for making policies with local governments
- Invest resources on vaccine development → Prioritize medical workers and older adults

Global level

WHO

- Provide unified notification, direction, and instruction
- Coordinate vaccine development



Thank you for your kind attention.