

1. Introduction

2. Evaluation of the infection situation in each prefecture

(1) How to determine the regions to which the declaration of a state of emergency applies

- Although the declaration of a state of emergency is currently applicable in all the prefectures, the Government will make comprehensive decisions especially when determining the applicable regions through discussions in the Basic Action Policy Advisory Committee, in light of factors such as the infection situation (epidemiological situation), the systems for delivering medical care (medical situation), and the infection situation in neighboring prefectures.

(2) Evaluation of the infection situation and the systems for delivering medical care in each prefecture

(i) Infection situation (epidemiological situation)

- As of May 2, the cumulative number of infections is 14,839.
- The trend in the number of new infections in the past three weeks shows that the increase in the number of new infections is certainly slowing down.
- The total number of new infections in the past week was over 100 only in Tokyo, Hokkaido, Osaka, and Kanagawa.
- Newly infected patients have not been confirmed in Iwate, Akita, Tottori, Nagasaki, and Miyazaki for the past two weeks and in Mie, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Oita, and Kagoshima for the past week.
- The effective reproduction number announced on May 1 was below 1 both nationwide and in Tokyo.
- As the number of PCR tests has been stably increasing, the positive rate in the PCR test and other tests is lowering.
- The behavior modification of citizens has proven successful, resulting in a nationwide decrease in the number of new infections.

(ii) Systems for delivering medical care

- As patients with severe symptoms stay in hospital for a long time, there is a time lag before the actual number of patients (the number of patients by onset of symptoms) decreases, even if the number of newly reported infections starts decreasing. In this context, the burden placed on medical institutions is still just under the limit.
- Each prefectural government is building systems to deliver medical care and working to prepare lodging facilities for patients with mild symptoms. As of April 30, 13,000 rooms are available.

(3) General overview

- The current framework under the declaration of a state of emergency should continue for the time being.
- On the other hand, the Government must not force citizens to make sacrifices in their lives more than is necessary. This expert meeting will conduct an analysis in light of the latest infection situation and other

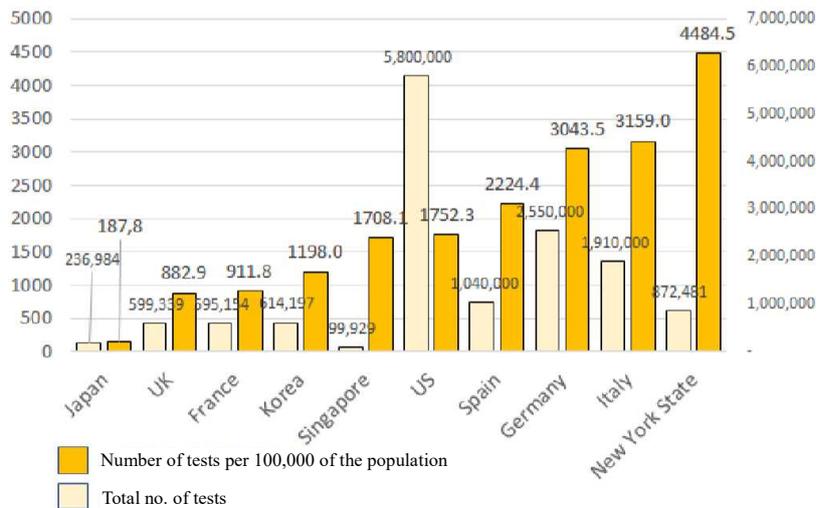
factors in about one or two weeks.

3. Evaluation of PCR tests and other tests

(1) Analysis of the number of PCR tests and other tests and the positive rate

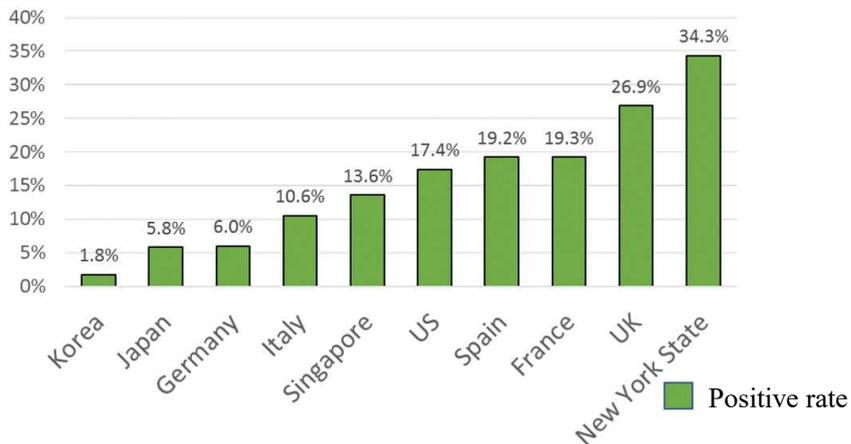
- A comparison of the number of PCR tests and other tests and the positive rates among countries shows that the number of PCR tests and other tests per 100,000 of the population in Japan is clearly less than in other countries (Fig. 1). On the other hand, the positive rate in Japan is significantly lower than in Italy, Singapore, the U.S., Spain, France, and the U.K. (Fig. 2). Thus, we believe that it is not the case that Japan is unable to identify as many potentially infected patients as these countries.

Fig. 1 Comparison of the number of PCR tests and other tests among countries and regions *1



*Counter-Cluster Measures Team, MHLW

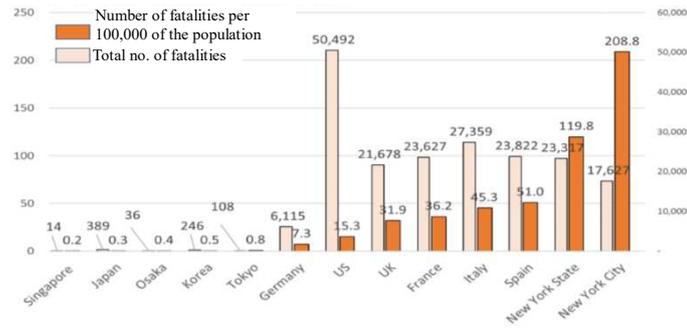
Fig. 2 Comparison of the positive rates among countries and regions *2



*Counter-Cluster Measures Team, MHLW

- The number of fatalities due to COVID-19 per 100,000 of the population in Japan is one-tenth or less of the numbers in Western countries (Fig. 3).

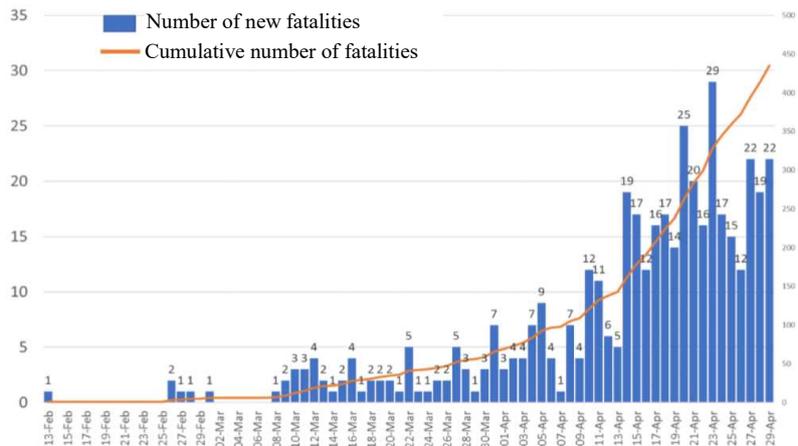
Fig. 3 Comparison of the numbers of fatalities among countries and regions *3



*Counter-Cluster Measures Team, MHLW

- Because the number of CT scanners per population in Japan is higher than that in other countries, CT scanners are actively used to diagnose pneumonia, in addition to diagnosing pathogens, through the PCR test or other test. The number of overlooked cases is small in severe cases, death cases and other such cases.
- Because the average hospitalization period is about two to three weeks and patients with severe symptoms stay in hospital for a longer time, unfortunately, it seems that it will take some time until the number of fatalities clearly starts decreasing in Japan (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4 Trend in the number of new fatalities and the cumulative number of fatalities

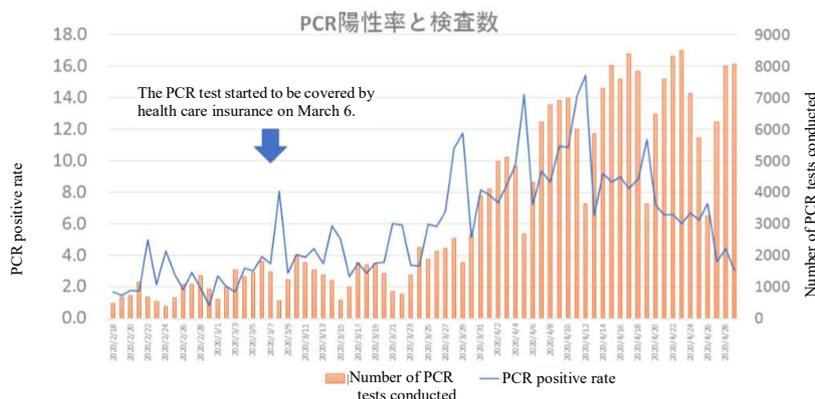


*Counter-Cluster Measures Team, MHLW

- The time-dependent change in the number of PCR tests and other tests conducted per day shows a gradual increase in the number of tests at private laboratories, universities and medical institutions, although the number depends on the day of the week.

- The time-dependent change in the positive rate in the PCR tests and other tests shows a decreasing trend since the state of emergency was declared (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5 Trend in the PCR positive rate and the number of tests



*Counter-Cluster Measures Team, MHLW (Source: Test Team)

- It is important to further increase the number of PCR tests and other tests for earlier diagnosis and proper medical treatment.

(2) Future measures

- As the sample collection, sample transportation, and testing capabilities are being enhanced, the system in which tests were only possible by going through public health centers is gradually being eliminated.
- The Government should implement a system to test potential patients quickly and reliably, including those with mild symptoms when doctors deem it necessary, through the following measures:
 - (i) Enhancement of the systems of public health centers and public health institutes
 - (ii) Activation of prefectural coordination headquarters
 - (iii) Increase in regional outpatient facilities and test centers
 - (iv) Reliable procurement of infection protective equipment, sample collection kits, and test kits
 - (v) Training of sample collectors and quality control of PCR tests and other tests
 - (vi) Surveillance of the PCR test and other test systems and monitoring and announcement of the number of tests and the positive rate
- It is also necessary to develop quick antigen diagnosis kits to complement PCR tests and other tests and a high-quality test implementation system.

4. Specific recommendations on future behavior modification

(1) New lifestyle to prevent the spread of the infection

- In the attached sheet, we provide examples of practices we encourage citizens to adopt in their future daily lives, to help them understand the specific behaviors in their new lifestyle.

Example of practicing "New Lifestyle"

(1) Basic infection prevention measures for each person

Three basics for preventing infection:

① Keeping physical distance, ② wearing a mask, ③ washing hands

- Keep a distance of two meters as much as possible, or at least one meter, between two persons
- Choose outside rather than inside if you are to play
- Avoid standing right in front of each other during conversation as much as possible
- Wear a mask when you go out or talk inside even without any symptoms
- Wash your hands and face first when you get back home, followed by changing clothes and showering as soon as possible
- Carefully wash your hands with water and a soap for approximately 30 seconds (also possibly with hand sanitizer)

※ Pay more attention to your health, especially when meeting those who may have a high risk of serious symptoms, such as the elderly or people with chronic diseases.

Infection prevention related to traveling

- Refrain from traveling to and from where the infection is prevailing
- Refrain from traveling upcountry or for leisure. Business trips only when it is unavoidable
- Keep a record of the people you meet and the time of meeting in case you get infected
- Carefully follow how the infection is prevailing locally

(2) Basic lifestyle for daily life

- Wash and sanitize hands frequently
- Make sure to observe coughing etiquette (by covering your mouth)
- Ventilate frequently
- Keep physical distance
- Avoid gatherings in crowded places, close contact settings and closed spaces
- Check your health condition and measure body temperature every morning
- Do not force yourself to go out, and stay home if you have symptoms of fever or cold



(3) Lifestyle for each scene of daily life

Shopping

- Use online shopping
- Shop by yourself or in a small group, at off-peak hours
- Use electronic payment
- Plan your shopping in advance and shop quickly
- Refrain from touching displays like samples
- Keep a distance while lining up at the cashier

Leisure, Sports etc.

- Select places like parks at off-peak time
- Refer to videos for home muscle training or yoga
- Jog in a small group
- Keep a distance as etiquette when passing others
- Utilize booking systems for leisure
- Do not stay long in small rooms
- Keep a distance or stay online for singing or cheering others

Public Transports

- Refrain from chatting
- Avoid peak-hours
- Also take a walk or use bikes

Meals

- Take away or delivery
- Enjoy meals at outside spaces
- Serve individually, avoid sharing plates
- Do not sit face-to-face, rather besides
- Concentrate on eating, refrain from chatting
- Avoid serving alcohol, sharing glasses or sake cups

Family ceremonial occasions

- Avoid banquets or meetings with large numbers
- Decline participation when you have symptoms of fever or cold

(4) New working style

- Work remotely and rotate commuting shifts
- Keeping a distance while commuting during different working hours
- Open and widen working spaces
- Use online meetings
- Exchange business cards online
- Wear a mask and ventilate venues in case of a face-to-face meeting

※ Infection prevention guidelines for each business sectors will be prepared by relevant organizations.

(2) Points to be noted about the guidelines for preventing the spread of infection in each industry

- To prevent the infection from spreading at the same time as conducting socio-economic activities, it is especially necessary for businesses to consider and implement specific infection prevention measures in the scenes in which they provide each of their services.
- Because the risk of infection varies in each case, we would like each industry to create guidelines or other policies to prevent the infection from spreading and implement them by trial and error, using their ingenuity.
- Businesses should evaluate risks according to the content of the services they provide, considering factors such as the movements of employees, customers and other parties, and how they come into contact with each other.
- It is basically important to thoroughly implement measures to prevent the spread of infection, such as organizing visitors, installing disinfection facilities, using masks, ventilating and disinfecting facilities, and imposing restrictions on those with symptoms.

5. How to determine whether to relax measures

- Each prefectural government should gradually increase the socio-economic activity level in light of the

factors in their region, such as the infection situation and the securing of systems for delivering medical care.

- Each prefectural government should evaluate the situation in their region at certain intervals, including on the trends in the number of new infections and other data and the status of the systems for delivering medical care, and they should be prepared to quickly respond, for example, if the infection starts spreading again.

6. Conclusion

- As the measures are extended, while preventing the spread of the infection remains the top priority, we must also find ways to permit socio-economic activities. The Government must build systems to examine the issue while taking into account the impact that continuing the measures in the long term will have on the lives of citizens, the economy and society in general.