

## **SunText Review of Virology**

ISSN: 2766-5003

**Open Access**Research Article
Volume 3:1

# Changing COVID-19 Situation from Maximum New Cases to Possible Pandemic End in the Near Future

Bando H<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tokushima University / Medical Research, Tokushima, Japan

\*Corresponding author: Bando H, Tokushima University / Medical Research, Nakashowa 1-61, Tokushima 770-0943, Japan; Tel: +81-90-3187-2485; E-mail: <a href="mailto:pianomed@bronze.ocn.ne.jp">pianomed@bronze.ocn.ne.jp</a>

#### **Abstract**

**Received date:** 12 August 2022; **Accepted date:** 16 August 2022; **Published date:** 19 August 2022

**Citation:** Bando H (2022). Changing COVID-19 Situation from Maximum New Cases to Possible Pandemic End in the Near Future. SunText Rev Virol 3(1): 131.

**DOI**: <a href="https://doi.org/10.51737/2766-5003.2022.031">https://doi.org/10.51737/2766-5003.2022.031</a>

**Copyright:** © 2022 Bando H. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Concerning COVID-19 problems, Japan showed improved situation in early Nov 2021, in which 20 out of 47 prefectures showed 0 cases on Nov 6. After that, 6th wave came for Jan-Apr 2022 and 7th wave started Jul 2022. New COVID-19 cases have been increasing rapidly now, and 20 prefectures showed largest ever on Aug 10, 2022. However, severely ill cases seem to be rare so far, which may be related to the characteristic of Omicron strain. Several effective vaccines have been developed, and then the discontinuation of COVID-19 pandemic across the world would be expected in the near future.

**Keywords:** COVID-19; John Hopkins University (JHU); Omicron; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) Japan; National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID)

### **Commentary Article**

Concerning COVID-19, medical, social and economic problems have been persisting across the world [1]. The prevalence has been increased and various coinfection and aftereffects have been observed [2]. For effective measures, several types of vaccination have been conducted [3]. For these circumstances, authors and collaborators have continued clinical practice and research concerning integrative medicine (IM), primary care (PC), atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), and so on. Among them, we have reported impressive situation of COVID-19 in Japan concerning negative excess mortality [4,5]. Japanese people can always control our daily life for protecting virus infection such as masking, washing hands, keeping calm and avoiding gathering.

Consequently, only a few patients of COVID-19 were present in all Japan during in early Nov 2021. At that time, delta strain of COVID-19 was main strain type which showed rather strong poisonous characteristic. We have reported the rare and impressive situation [6]. The 5th peak was found on August 20, but it reduced sharply. After that, average new case showed 19-34 for three weeks. On Nov 7, the death case became zero after 15

months. As United States has 50 states, Japan has 47 prefectures. Japan has reported the number of new cases every day for years [7]. Twenty out of 47 prefectures showed 0 cases of COVID-19 in early Nov 2021 [6].

Daily situation concerning COVID-19 worldwide has been announced by John Hopkins University (JHU) [8]. The data showed so far totally 588,205,478 cases, 6,429,955 deaths and totally vaccine doses administered 12,015,409,632 on August 12, 2022 (Figure 1). Similarly, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) Japan has continued daily report concerning various aspects of COVID-19 for long [7,9]. Furthermore, National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) has provided necessary presentation of COVID-19 and its pathogen SARS-CoV-2 in the light of scientific novel epidemiology, testing, treatment and others [10].

The number and ratio of new infections in Japan were low so far compared to other countries. The 5th wave was in Aug-Oct 2021, and the period of Oct-Dec was stable [11]. Successively, 6th wave was observed with peaked in Jan-Apr 2022 [12]. The number of infected people increased sharply from July without convergence, which is 7th wave. The incidence of new COIVD-19 infections is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Integrative Medicine Japan (IMJ), Shikoku Island division, Tokushima, Japan



shown over the past year (Figure 2). However, most of them are asymptomatic, and their hospitalization and severe cases are rare. Mutated viruses are considered to be highly infectious but less virulent. In other countries, examining kits are not so often used to check for new cases, but Japan has continued to conduct tests.

Combined with this situation, the number of new infections in Japan is now the highest in the world according to daily statistics by JHU [8] (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Data of new COVID-19 cases worldwide (JHU on Aug 12, 2022).

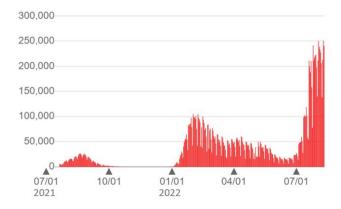


Figure 2: Changes in new COVID-19 cases for 1 year (July 2021-July 2022).

Next, from intranational aspect of COVID-19 infection, the maximum new infection cases were found on Aug 10, 2022. Furthermore, 20 out of 47 prefectures showed the highest number of cases (red color) in each statistic data (Figure 3). It is expected that daily counting the number of new infection cases will not be adopted in the future both in the world and also in Japan, and then these data would be considered significant.

As to the world data on Aug 12 by JHU, new COVID-19 cases in Japan were found more than US (Figure 1). There would be some related reasons. One of them would be the predominant situation of B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant of SARS-CoV-2. According to CDC of United States, research was conducted from Sept 2021 to

Jan 2022 [13]. The sample size showed 73,869-45,810 in median during the period. The data of seroprevalence showed the elevation as 36.5%-63.7% in 18-49 years, 28.8%-49.8% in 50-64 years and 19.1%-33.2% in > 65years. In Feb 2022, about 75% of younger generation showed evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, where one third became seropositive after Dec 2021. In contrast, many Japanese people kept long for protective life with seronegative situation. Consequently, Japanese people are easy to be infected for Omicron with higher compromised condition.

In Japan, the recommended way for preventing COVID-19 was refraining from closed, crowded and close-contact. It was certainly effective in earlier strains, but the current Omicron has



SUNTEAL REVIEWS

been known for aerosol transmission [14]. Masks for medical personnel are made of non-woven fabric, but masks for ordinary and young people are sometimes made of cloth, which is less effective in preventing infection. This is also possible reason for increasing infection for Omicron [15].



Figure 3: New COVID-19 cases from 47 prefectures in Japan (Aug 11, 2022).

We have been suffering from COVID-19 for more than 2.5 years. Some effective vaccines have been developed [16]. Furthermore, the discontinuation of COVID-19 pandemic would be expected in the near future because of changing strains such as Omicron [17]. In summary, latest topics and situation in Japan have been described. This article would become some useful reference for the solving this worldwide problem.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

None.

#### **Funding**

None.

#### References

- Wang C, Zhang H, Gao Y, Deng Q. Comparative Study of Government Response Measures and Epidemic Trends for COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Risk Anal. 2022; 42: 40-55.
- Omoush SA, Alzyoud JAM. The Prevalence and Impact of Coinfection and Superinfection on the Severity and Outcome of COVID-19 Infection: An Updated Literature Review. Pathogens. 2022; 11: 445.
- Kodera S, Rashed EA, Hirata A. Estimation of Real-World Vaccination Effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines against Delta and Omicron Variants in Japan. Vaccines (Basel). 2022; 10: 430.
- Bando H. Fewer annual deaths in Japan with negative excess mortality for COVID-19. Asp Biomed Clin Case Rep. 2021; 4: 84-87.
- 5. Woolf SH, Chapman DA, Sabo RT, Zimmerman EB. Excess Deaths from COVID-19 and Other Causes in the US, March 1, 2020, to January 2, 2021. JAMA. 2021; 325: 1786-1789.
- 6. Bando H. Acute Decline of New COVID-19 Cases during autumn 2021 In Japan. SunText Rev Virol. 2021; 2: 122.

- 7. MHLW of Japan.
- 8. John Hopkins University (JHU).
- 9. HP of MHLW, Japan.
- 10. National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID).
- Maki K. An interpretation of COVID-19 in Tokyo using a combination of SIR models. Proc Jap Acad Series B. 2022; 98: 87-92.
- Yamanaka J, Takasago S, Horigome A, Hayashi M, Matsunashi S, Shioda S, et al. Adapting pediatric health care responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan: a clinical perspective. Global Health & Medicine. 2022; 1043.
- Clarke KEN, Jones JM, Deng Y, Nycz E, Lee A, Iachan R, et al. Seroprevalence of Infection-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies -United States, September 2021-February 2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022; 71: 606-608.
- 14. Zheng J, Wang Z, Li J, Zhang Y, Jiang L, Fu Y, et al. High amounts of SARS-CoV-2 in aerosols exhaled by patients with Omicron variant infection. J Infect. 2022; 84: e126-e128.
- Li J, Zhang Y, Jiang L, Cheng H, Li J, Li L, et al. Similar aerosol emission rates and viral loads in upper respiratory tracts for COVID-19 patients with Delta and Omicron variant infection. Virol Sin. 2022; 1.
- 16. Link-Gelles R, Levy ME, Gaglani M, Irving SA, Stockwell M, Dascomb K, et al. Effectiveness of 2, 3, and 4 COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Doses Among Immunocompetent Adults During Periods when SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1 and BA.2/BA.2.12.1 Sublineages Predominated VISION Network, 10 States, December 2021-June 2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022; 71: 931-939.
- 17. Wang C, Han J. Will the COVID-19 pandemic end with the Delta and Omicron variants? Environ Chem Lett. 2022; 20: 2215-2225.