



EXPERIENCES OF JAPAN TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

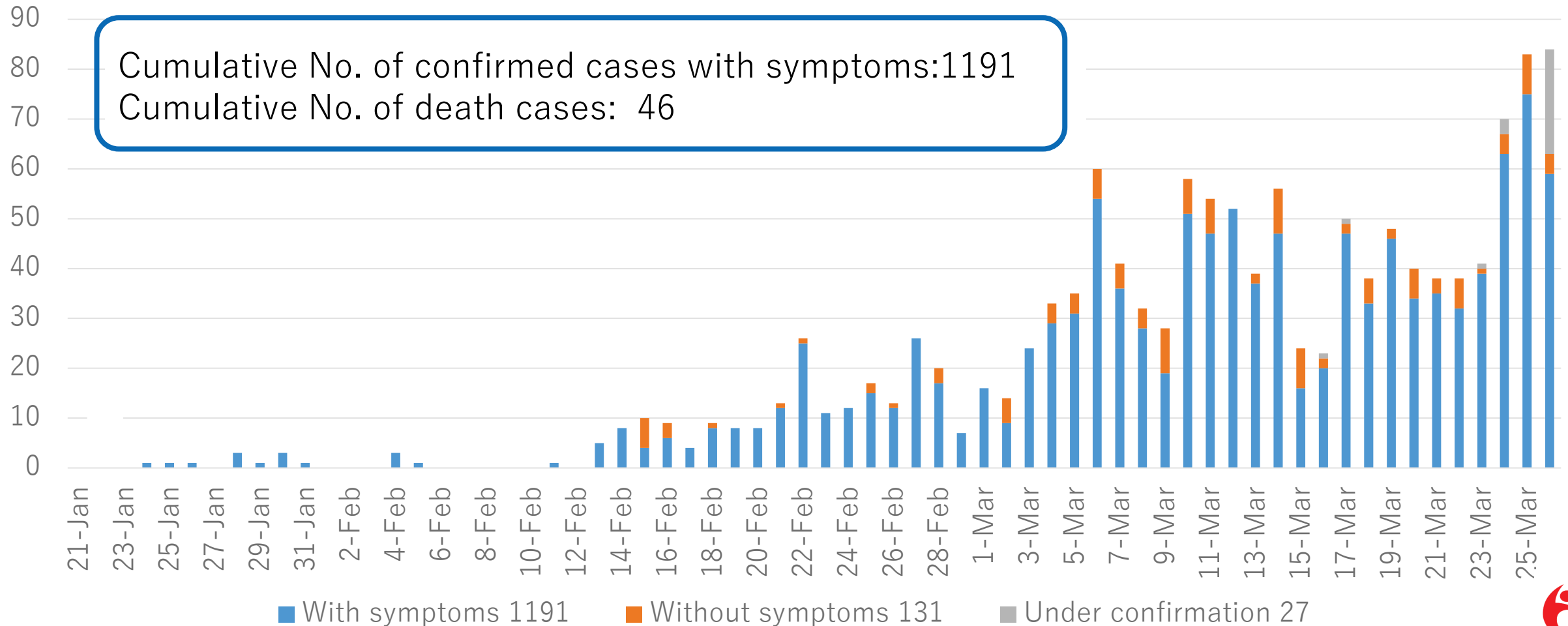
KATO Katsunobu
Minister of Health, Labour
and Welfare, Japan



The trend of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Japan, as of 26nd March 2020

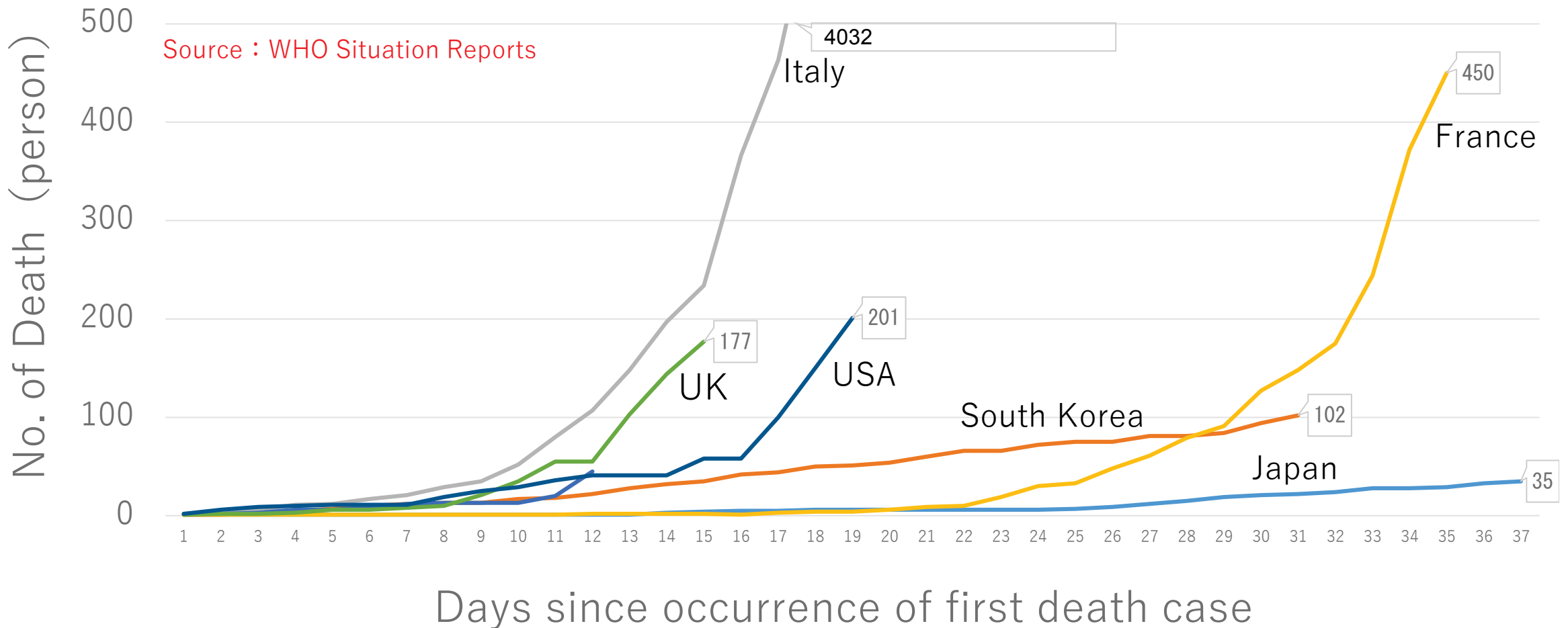
The number of newly confirmed cases in the past 2 weeks range from 20 to 90 cases per day.

(The number of patients on charter flights and cruise ship is not included.)



The trend of death cases in several countries, as of 21st March

- Slow increase of death cases
- Burden on local health system is not overwhelming so far



Three Pillars of Basic Strategy to combat COVID-19 in Japan

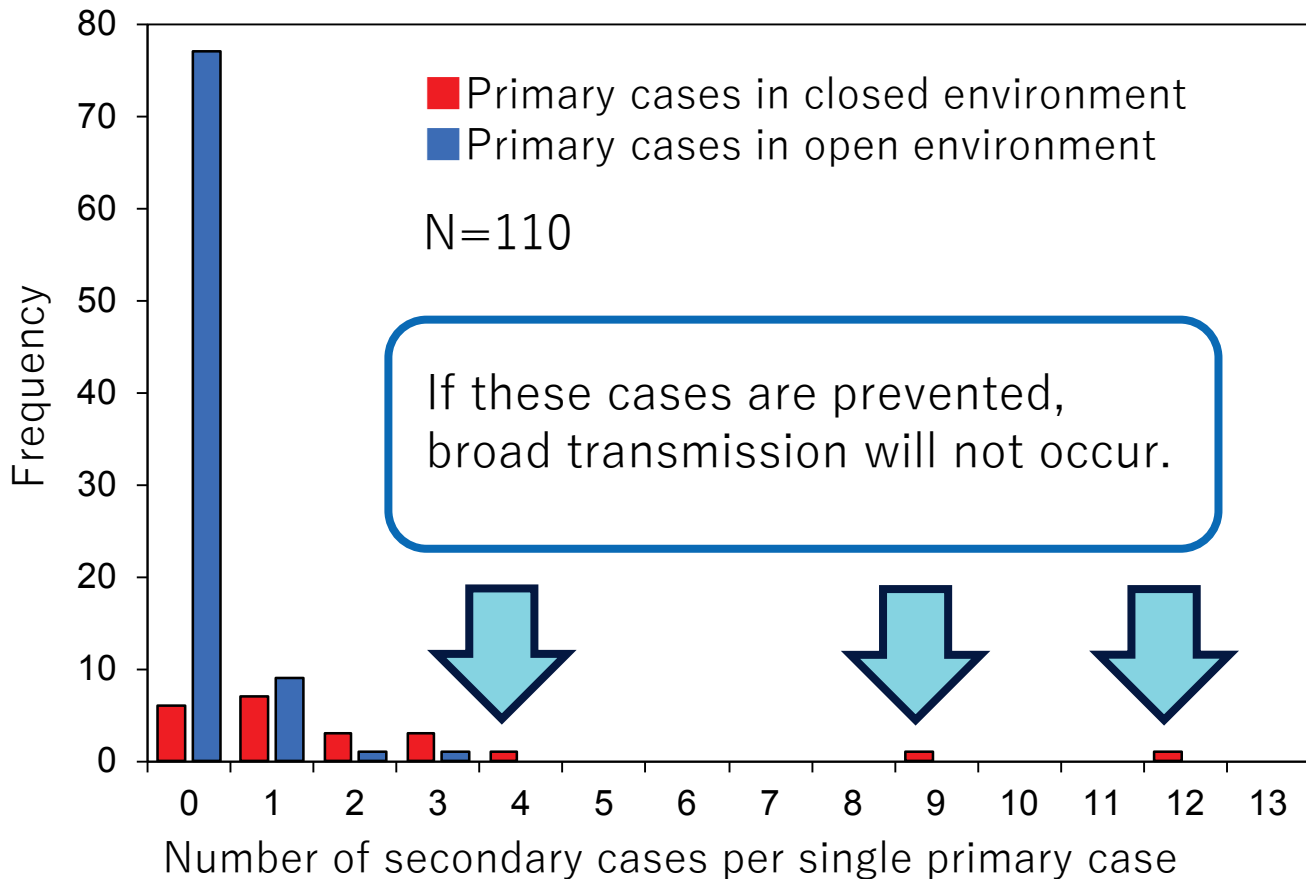
<Overall Goal>

Maximization of suppression of transmission and Minimization of socio-economic damage

1. Early detection of and early response to clusters
2. Enhancement of intensive care and the securing of a medical service system for the severely ill, including medical equipment (Ventilator, ECMO, etc)
3. Behavior modification of citizens



Avoidance of high risk environment



Three “C” high risk environments

- ① **Closed spaces with insufficient ventilation**
- ② **Crowded conditions with people**
- ③ **Conversations in short distance**

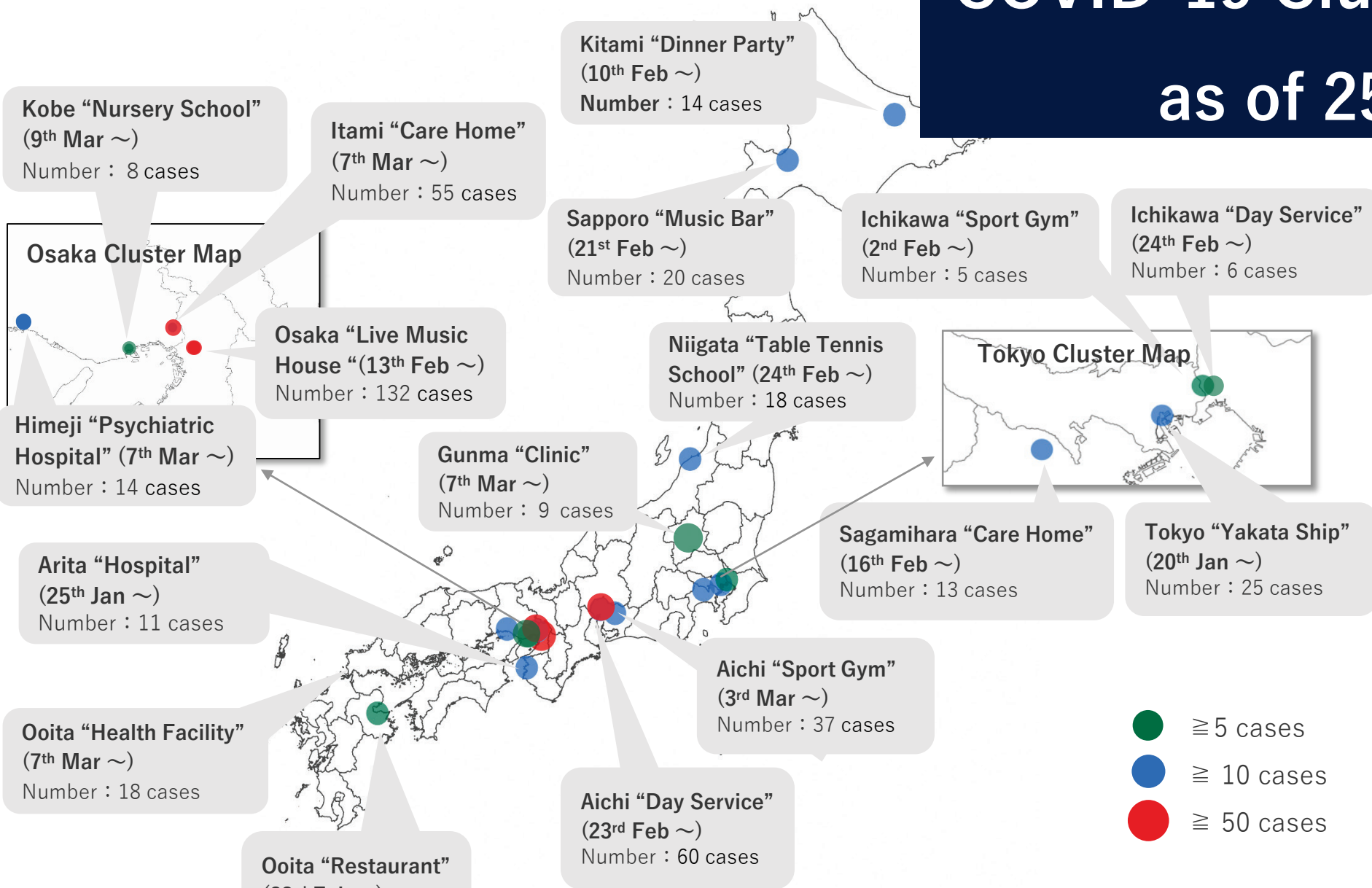
- Voluntary restraint of mass gathering.
- Closure of school.



80% of cases infected in open environment have not transmitted to others.

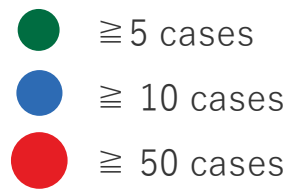


COVID-19 Clusters in Japan, as of 25th March, 2020



Common cluster sites

- Healthcare facility
- Household
- Nursery school
- **Live music club**
- **Sports gym**
- **Indoor sports event**
- **Mahjong**

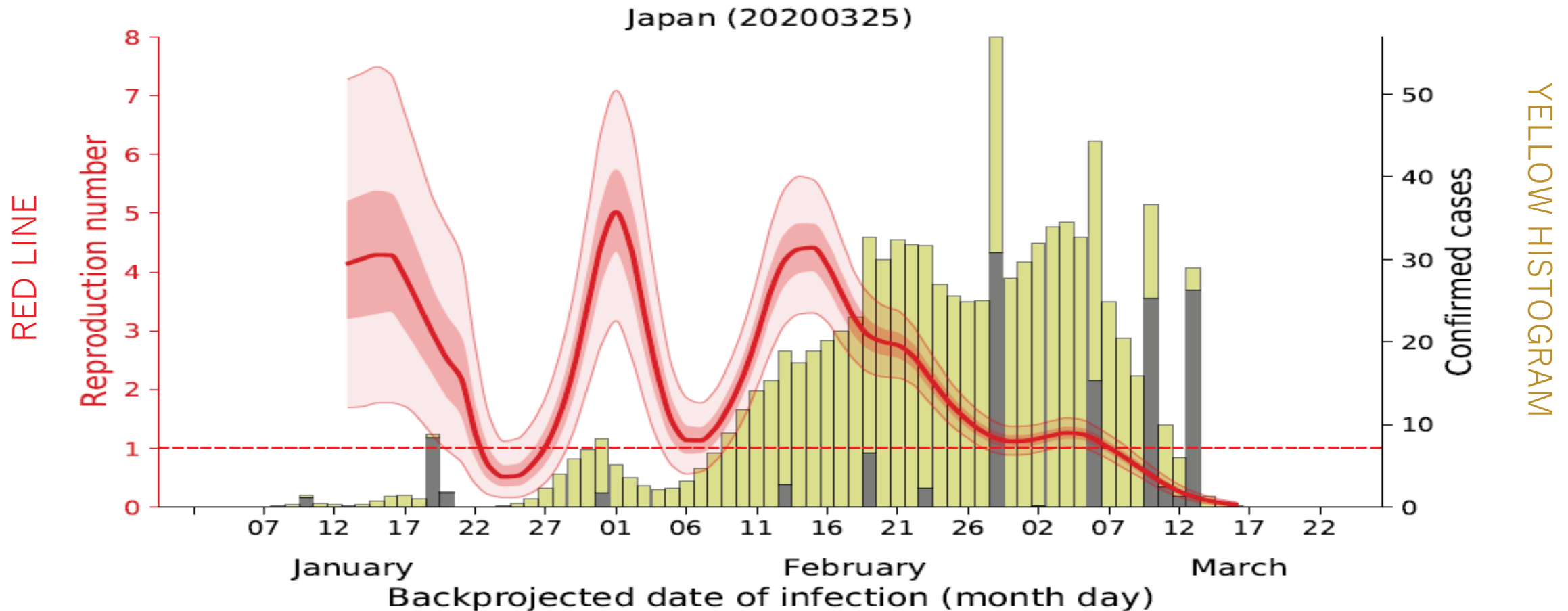


(Note 1) Number indicates the infected cases in the cluster, not in the prefecture
 (Note 2) Number includes the secondary cases in the cluster
 (Note 3) Clusters are grouped by Prof. Oshitani and Prof. Nishiura



Current situation in Japan

Estimated effective reproduction number, Japan, by date



Reproduction number remains less than 1. This suggests that the early detection of cluster could slow the increase of confirmed cases



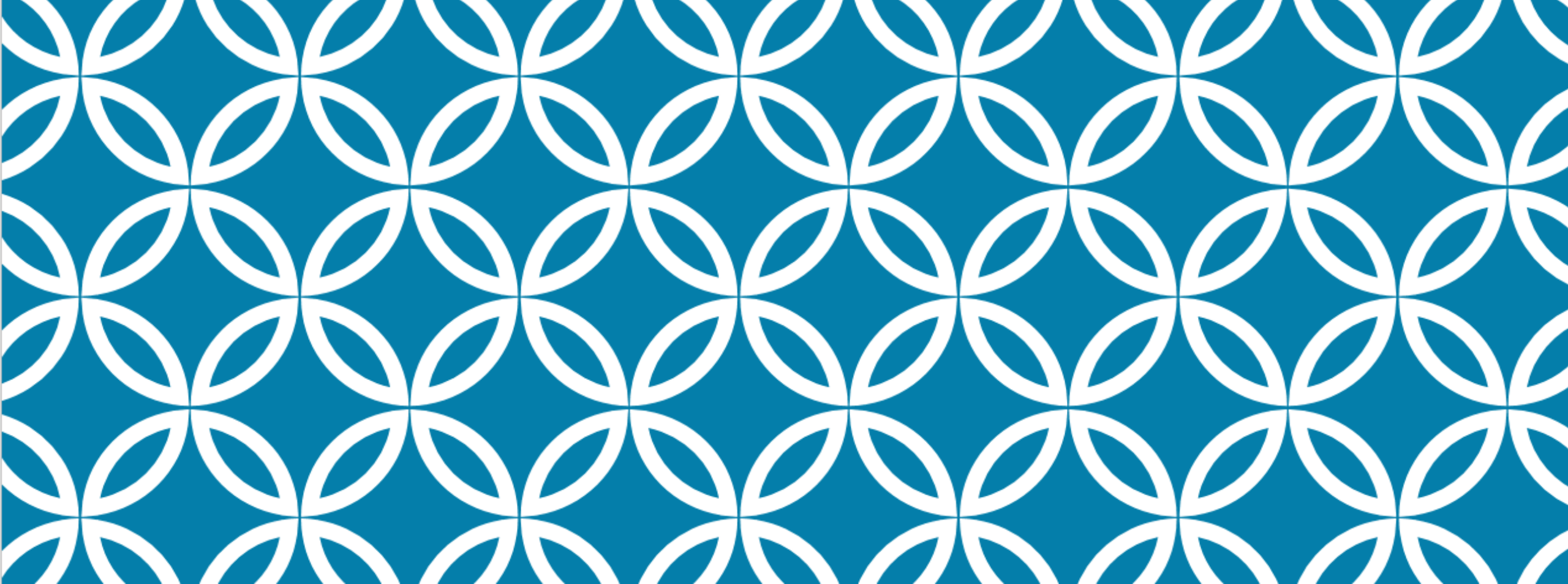
Way Forward

- We have great concerns about following situation;
 - (1) increased new cases in urban areas,
 - (2) increased cases with unidentified source.
 - (3) Rapidly increased confirmed cases and death worldwide.
 - (4) Many imported cases to Japan.
- Needs to control infection while minimizing socio-economic damage.
- Needs to prevent overwhelming hospitals
- Strengthen the capacity of local government to control the outbreak, considering local situations based on data.



Delay and lower the peak of infection.





Thank you so much for your kind atten

