

HPV Prevention Board and Control

Technical meeting: “Impact of COVID-19 on Cervical Cancer
Screening, Treatment and Vaccination”

Interruption in the Cervical Screening Programme- COVID-19 and Japan

Sharon Hanley,
Assistant Professor (Cancer epidemiology)
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine
Sapporo, Japan

The Covid-19 Pandemic in Japan (Overview)

COVID-19 cases in Japan

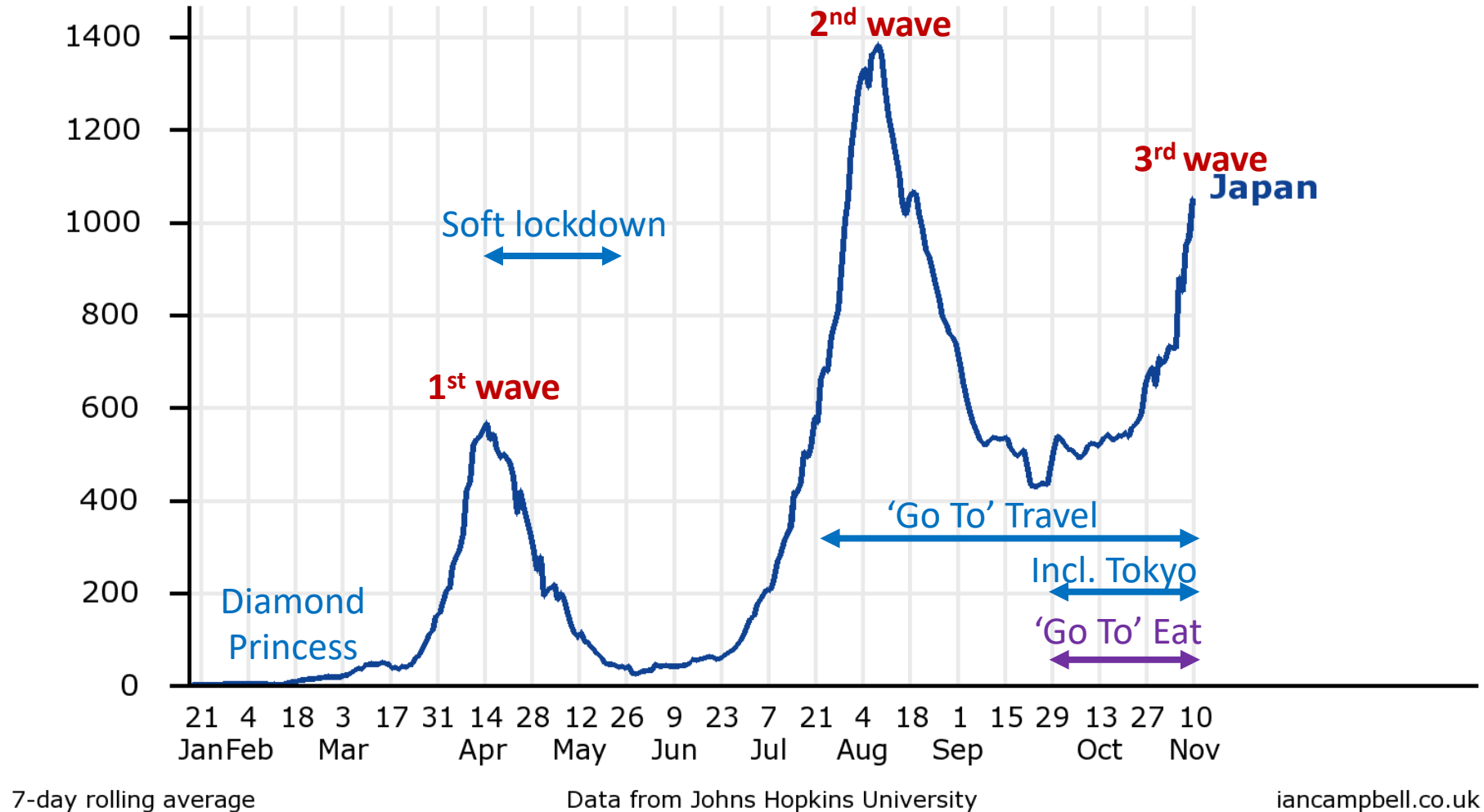
As of 23:59 11/11 (JST)

	Confirmed	Severe	Died	Discharged
Total	112,880 (+1,546)	204 In ICU	1,876 (+12)	99,767
Domestic*	112,168	204	1,863	99,108
Diamond Princess	712	0	13	659

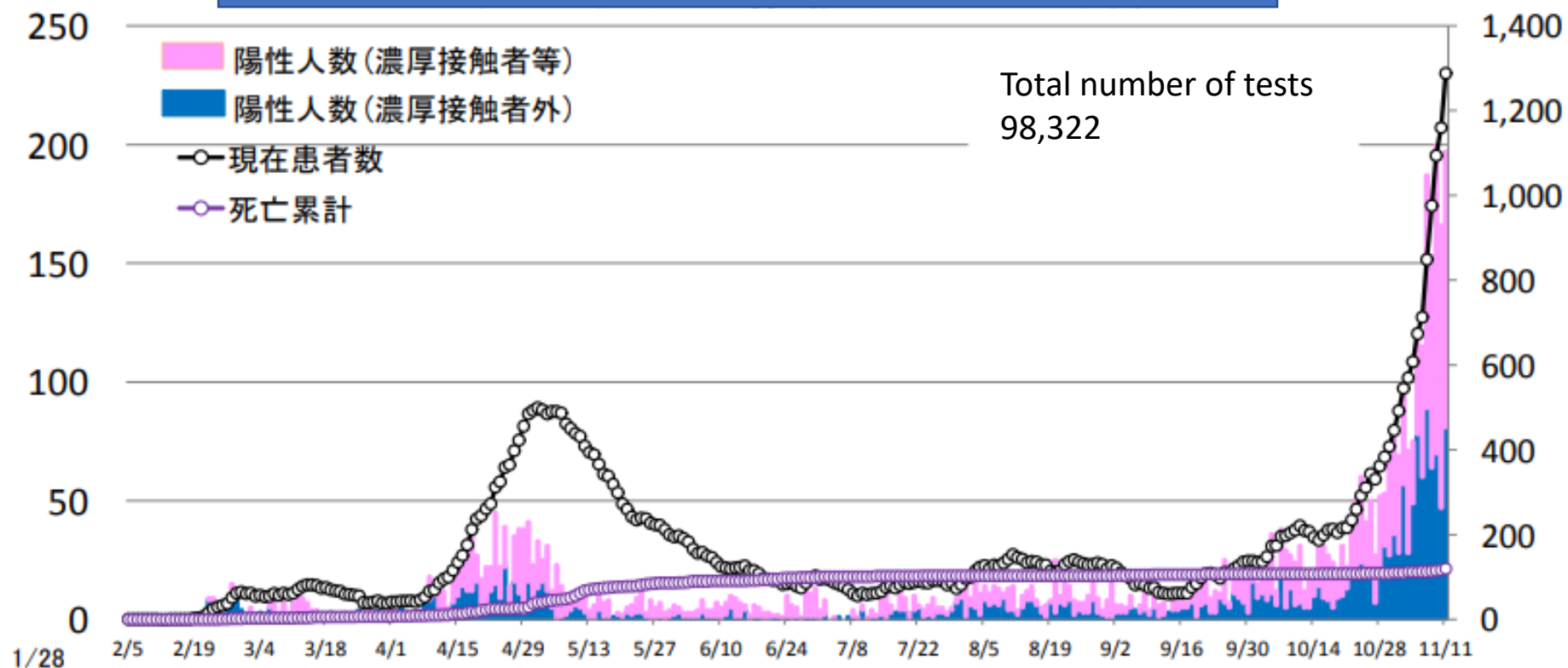
* Including reinfections and evacuees from the Chinese province of Hubei government-chartered planes.

The Covid-19 Pandemic in Japan (cases)

Reported cases each day of covid-19



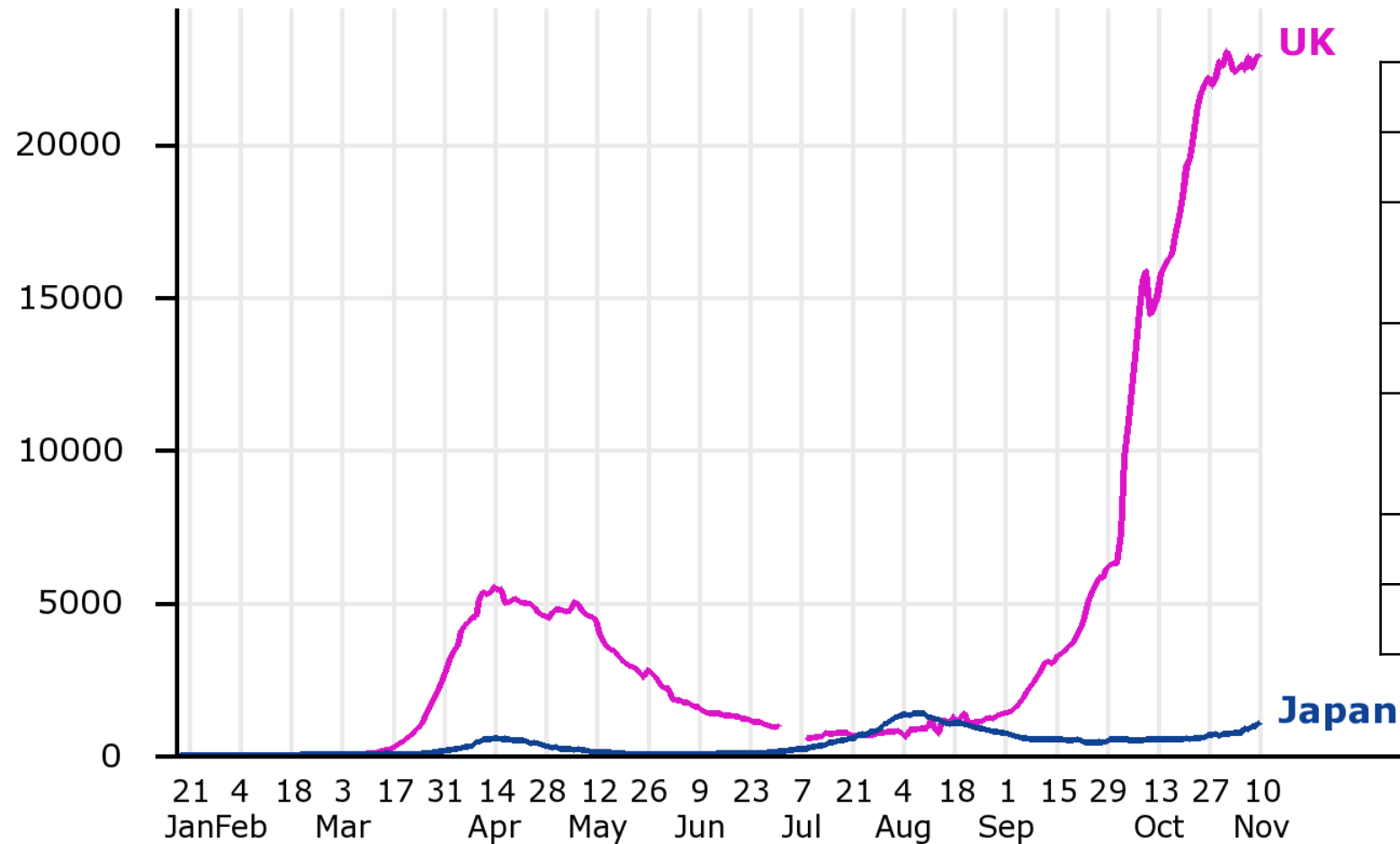
COVID 19 in Hokkaido



※「陽性人数」における濃厚接触者等の有無は、報道提供日における判明数での集計となります。

The Covid-19 Pandemic in Japan and UK (Cases and Testing)

Reported cases each day of covid-19



Total COVID-19 cases ^a (IFPD)	
Japan ¹	UK ²
11,280 (+1546)	1,256,725 (22,950)
Cumulative number of PCR tests (IFPD)	
2,626,113 (+25,179)	34,490,306 (+304,843)
Daily PCR tests per 1000 population ³	
0.17	3.85

7-day rolling average

Data from Johns Hopkins University

iancampbell.co.uk

¹<https://www.mhlw.go.jp>

²<https://www.gov.uk>

³<https://ourworldindata.org>

^aPCR confirmed
IFPD= Increase from
previous day

Japanese Testing (PCR) Strategy

Initially

- All patients who tested positive on the Diamond Princess (500+) hospitalized.
- Doctors could not order PCR test, controlled by Public Health Center
- Patients had to have a temperature of 37.5 or more for 4+ days before could have a test, clinical signs of pneumonia usually required
 - Contact tracing therefore often began/begins quite late in the infectious period
- All people who tested positive hospitalized regardless disease severity
- Patients discharged after symptoms resolve and 2 consecutive neg. PCR tests 24hrs apart
 - Many 'recovered' patients hospitalized for weeks 'blocking' hospital beds

After first wave peak

- Hotels also used to accommodate those with mild symptoms
 - Nurses, doctors and pharmacists stationed in hotels/patients continually monitored

Now

- 4-day rule still applies but those with breathing difficulties/high fever can have an immediate test.
- No routine community testing, but routine testing of close contacts
- Most hospitals test people before they can be admitted for non-Covid procedures (some tertiary hospitals also doing chest CT)
- Small number of patients allowed to self-isolate at home at discretion of physician
 - Public health nurses call twice daily to check health condition

Medical Hotels- Hokkaido

- Three business hotels
- For patients with mild or no symptoms
- Doctor and nurses always present
- Self-defence force assists
- Pharmacist also present
- Law changed to allow prescribing within the hotel
- Helps support hospitality industry



Testing booth



The Covid-19 Pandemic in Japan (deaths)

Reported deaths each day from covid-19



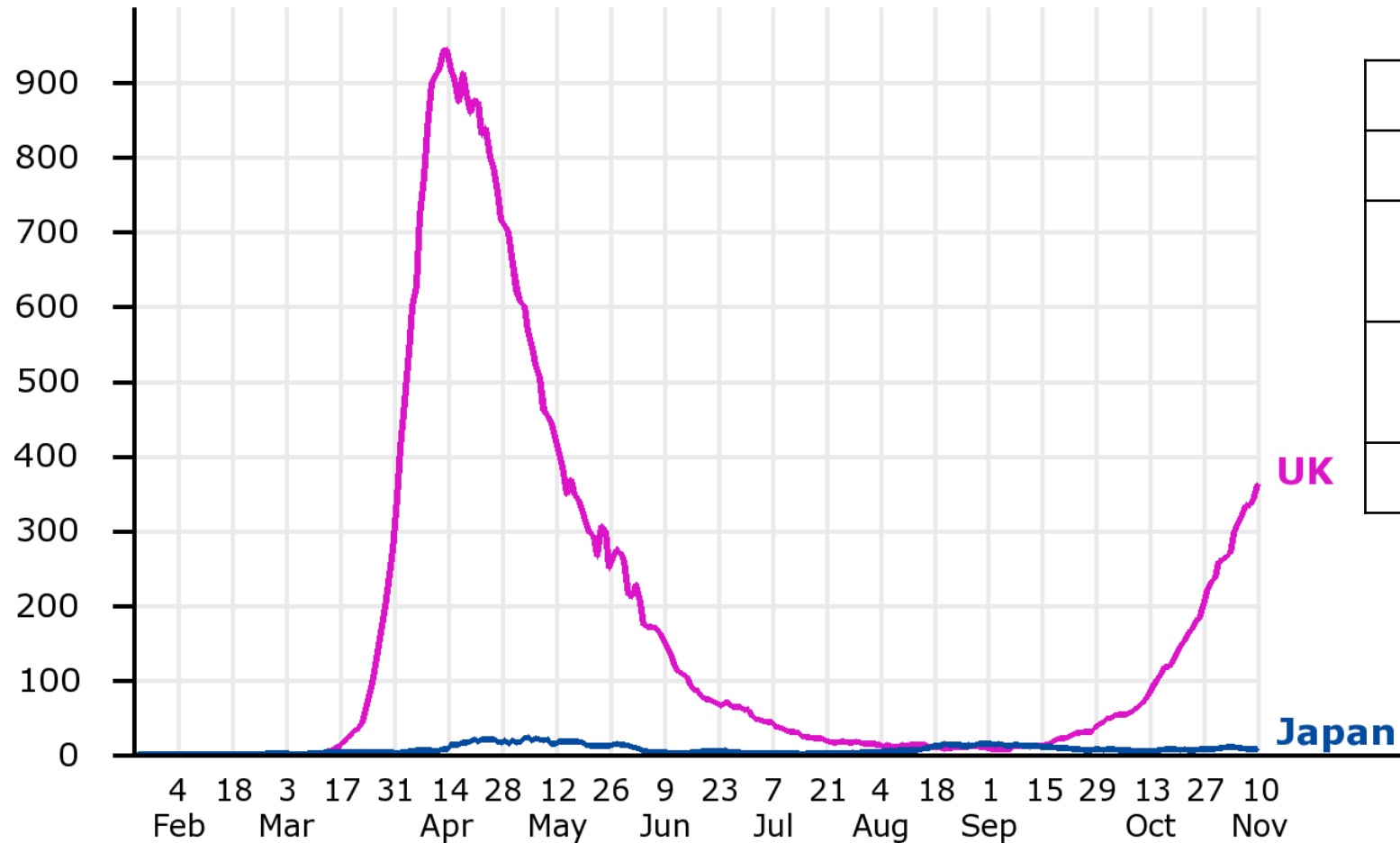
7-day rolling average

Data from Johns Hopkins University

iancampbell.co.uk

The Covid-19 Pandemic in Japan and UK (Daily deaths)

Reported deaths each day from covid-19



Total COVID-19 deaths ^a (IFPD)	
Japan ¹	UK ²
1,840 (+12)	50,365 (595)
Cumulative Covid deaths per million population	
14.46 ⁷	725.20 ⁷

Decreased all-cause mortality in Japan

Why has Japan 'Controlled' the Pandemic

- Closed borders in March (strict quarantine procedures)
- Quickly understood there was asymptomatic and aerosol transmission (from experience with Diamond Princess)
- Citizens told to avoid 3 Cs –
 - Windows opened frequently
 - Told to avoid eating with large groups (except family)
 - Told to avoid talking during meals
- Cluster-Buster approach (experienced public health nurses)
- Non-covid designated hospitals/clinics stayed open so less disruption to other acute health care services
- Not customary to entertain at home
 - limited mixing within households
- No custom of hugging and kissing
- Alcohol induces drowsiness not rowdiness! (deficient gene)
 - Legal drinking age 20yrs, no Freshers Week
- **WEARING MASKS NORMAL!**

Important notice for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

Avoid the "Three Cs"!

- 1. Closed spaces** with poor ventilation.
- 2. Crowded places** with many people nearby.
- 3. Close-contact settings** such as close-range conversations.



One of the key measures against COVID-19 is to prevent occurrence of clusters.
Keep these "Three Cs" from overlapping in daily life.



The risk of occurrence of clusters is particularly high when the "Three Cs" overlap!

In addition to the "Three Cs," items used by multiple people should be cleaned with disinfectant.

首相官邸 Prime Minister's Office of Japan 厚生労働省 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare MHLW COVID-19 Search





Former PM
Abe



Japanese Diet



Tokyo Governor
Koike

High level political commitment

Some leaders wearing masks with more flair than others.....

Compulsory in schools

Primary and Secondary





How Did COVID Affect Cervical Screening?

Cervical Screening in Japan

- No National Cervical Cancer Screening Programme
 - Opportunistic
- Biennial Cytology programme with ASCUS HPV Triage
 - No issues with HPV test shortage
- Biennial uptake around 30-40%
- Screening opportunities
 - Screenings organized by municipalities (free or small charge) Japan Cancer Society
 - Individual opportunistic screening (covered by the individual)
 - Cancer screening included in workplace health-care checks required for employees
 - Cervical cancer not included, paid option (Japan Cancer Society, self-employed gynecologists)
 - Private comprehensive health check-up (Ningen dock) (covered by the individual)
 - During pregnancy (first screen common)

Screenings organized by municipalities

Japan Cancer Society

- Branches in all 46 prefectures
- Performs over 1,300,000 Pap Smears a year
- Use screening bus to get to remote or rural areas
 - Used by retired women, housewives, self-employed
- **Most screening halted** from April – July
 - During and after soft lockdown
- Capacity **halved** due to social distancing
- May not be able to 'catch-up'



Opportunistic Screening

Opportunistic Screening during COVID Pandemic

- Women **hesitant** to come for screening in all settings
- Screening **as normal** with pre-natal check-ups
 - Target age-group



新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止による子宮頸がん集団検診の中止について

検診車で実施する子宮頸がん集団検診は、新型コロナウイルスの感染拡大防止の観点から、中止いたします。

令和2年度 子宮頸がん集団検診		
検診実施日	検診会場	受付時間
6月16日(火)	とみうら元気倶楽部	9:15~10:00
	三芳保健福祉センター	11:00~12:00
	富山ふれあいスポーツセンター	14:00~14:45
6月26日(金)	和田地域福祉センター「やすらぎ」	9:15~10:00
	千倉保健センター	11:00~12:00
	丸山体育館	14:00~15:00
7月2日(木)	白浜コミュニティセンター	9:30~10:15

Summary

COVID Pandemic

- Rough start with the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship
- Closed borders early like many Asia/Oceania countries who took the 'SARS approach'
- Only one 'voluntary' soft lockdown implemented
- Emphasis on keeping economy going – European 'Influenza approach'
- Comparatively low number of deaths due to socio-cultural non-pharmacuetical interventions

Screening

- Municipal bus screening partially halted
- Women hesitant to attend clinics in all setting
- Screening performed during pre-natal check-ups
 - Target-age group



Thank you