

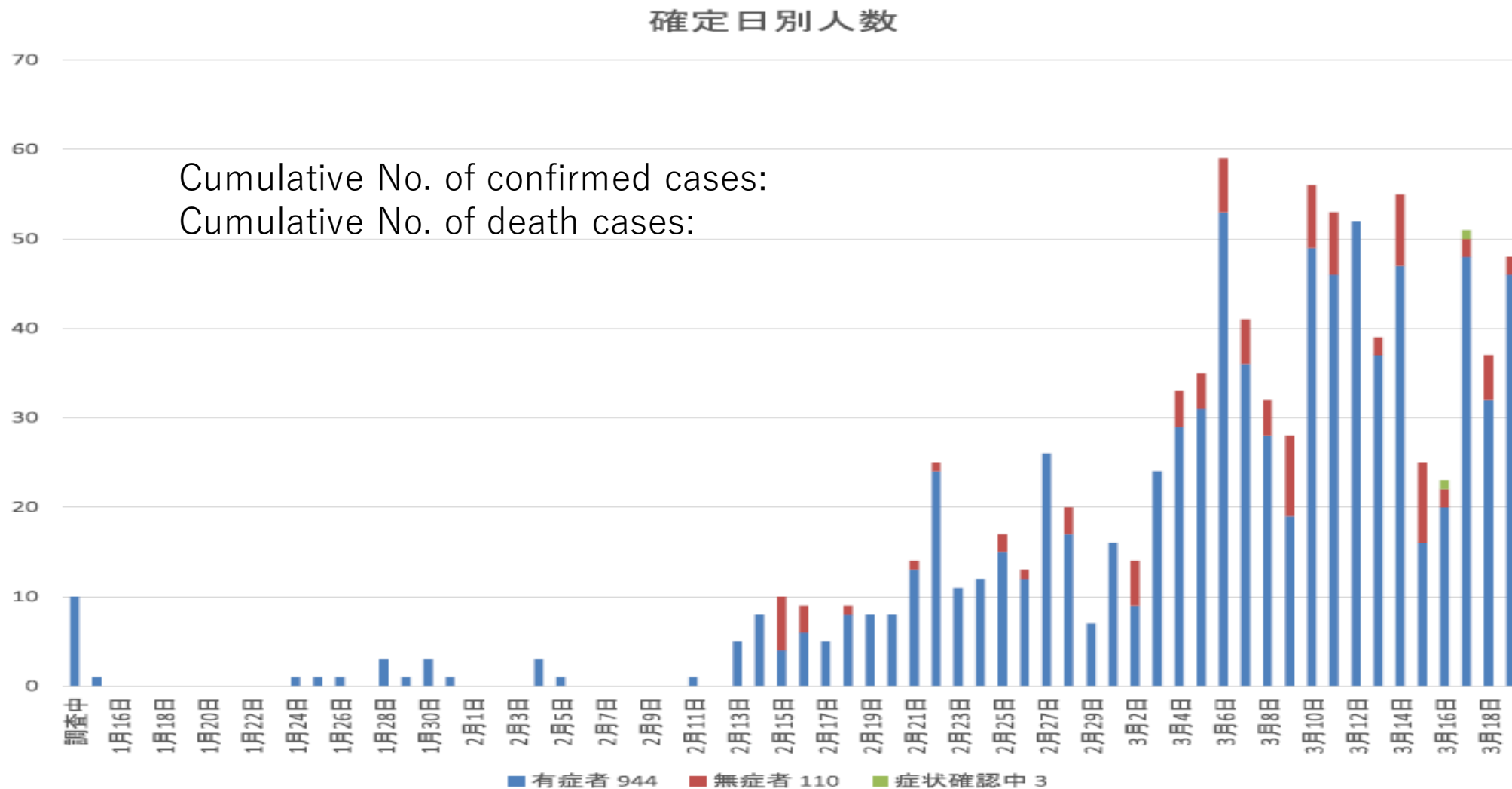
Experiences of Japan to respond to COVID-19

KATO Katsunobu

Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan

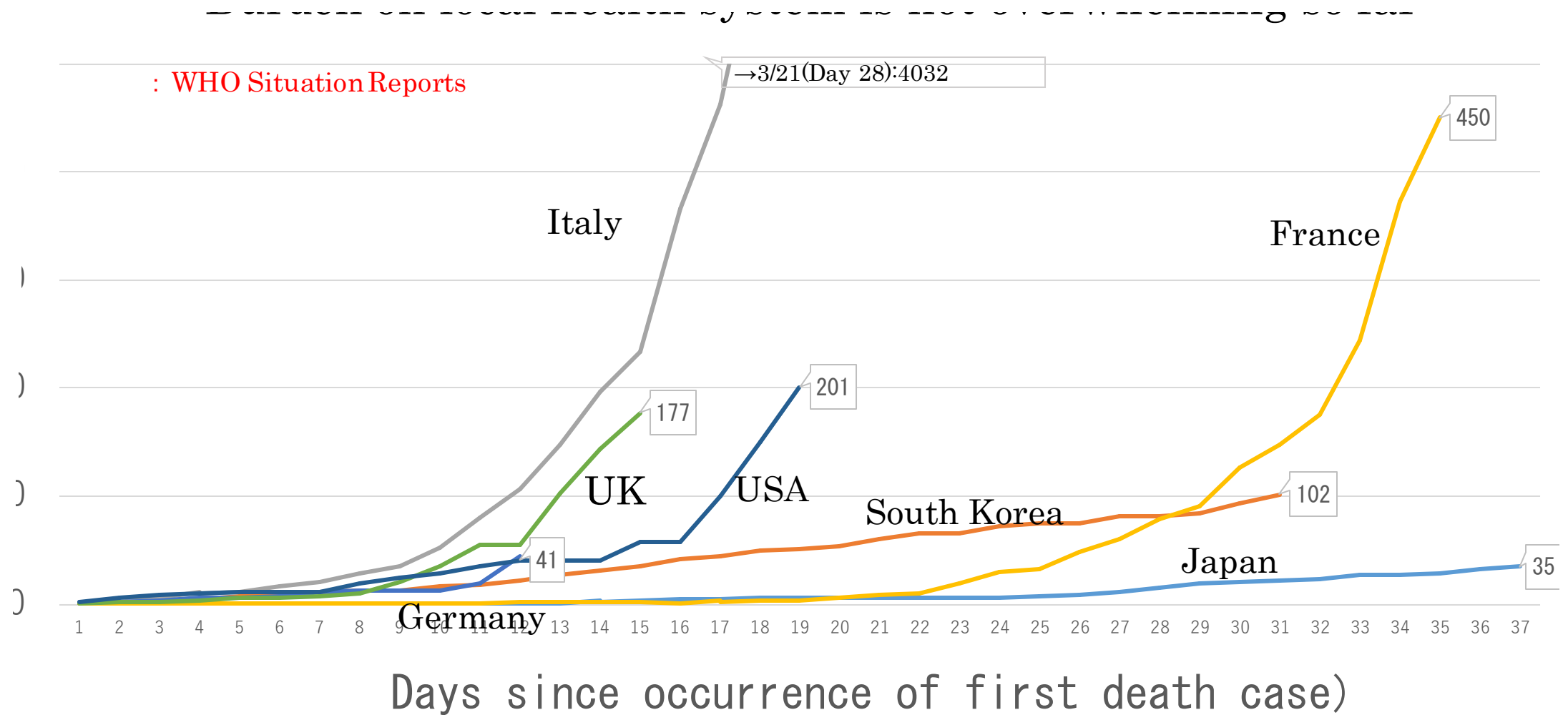
The trend of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Japan, as of 26nd March 2020

The number of newly confirmed cases in the past 2 weeks range from 20 to 60 cases per day.



[Note1] 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



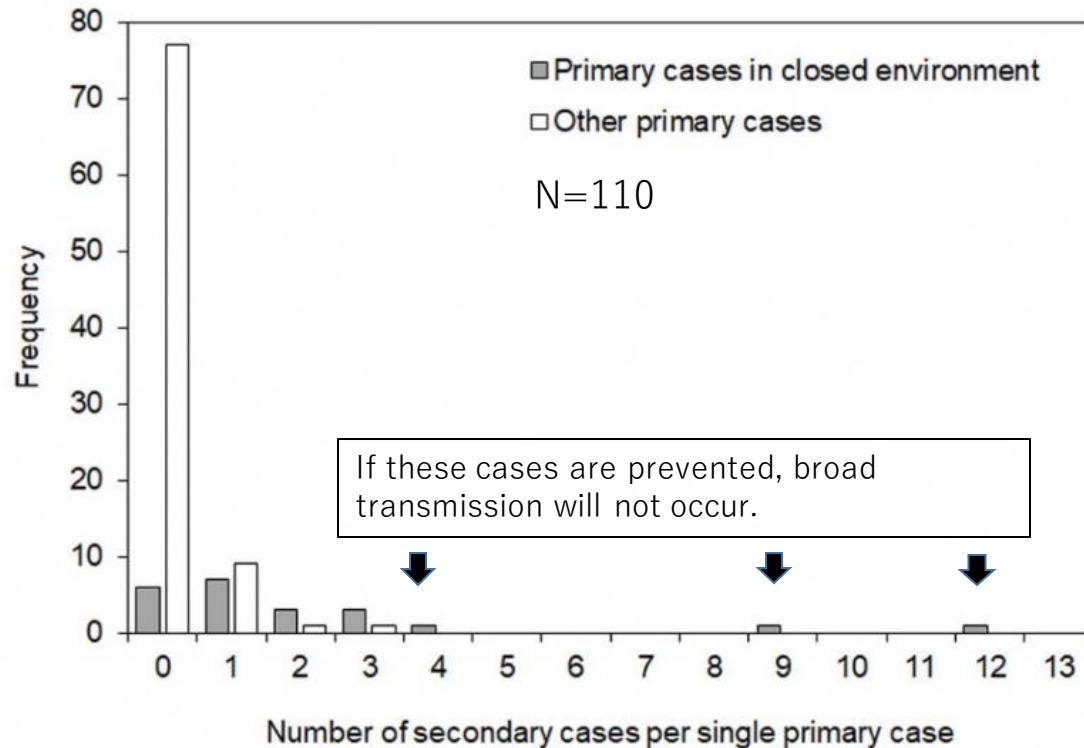
Three Pillars of Basic Strategy to combat COVID-19 in Japan

<Overall Goal>

“To maximize suppression of transmission while minimizing social and 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 (Ventilation, ECMO, etc)
3. Behavior modification of citizens

Avoidance of high risk environment



80% of cases infected not in closed environment have not transmitted to others, regardless of the severity of symptoms.

Three “C” high risk environments

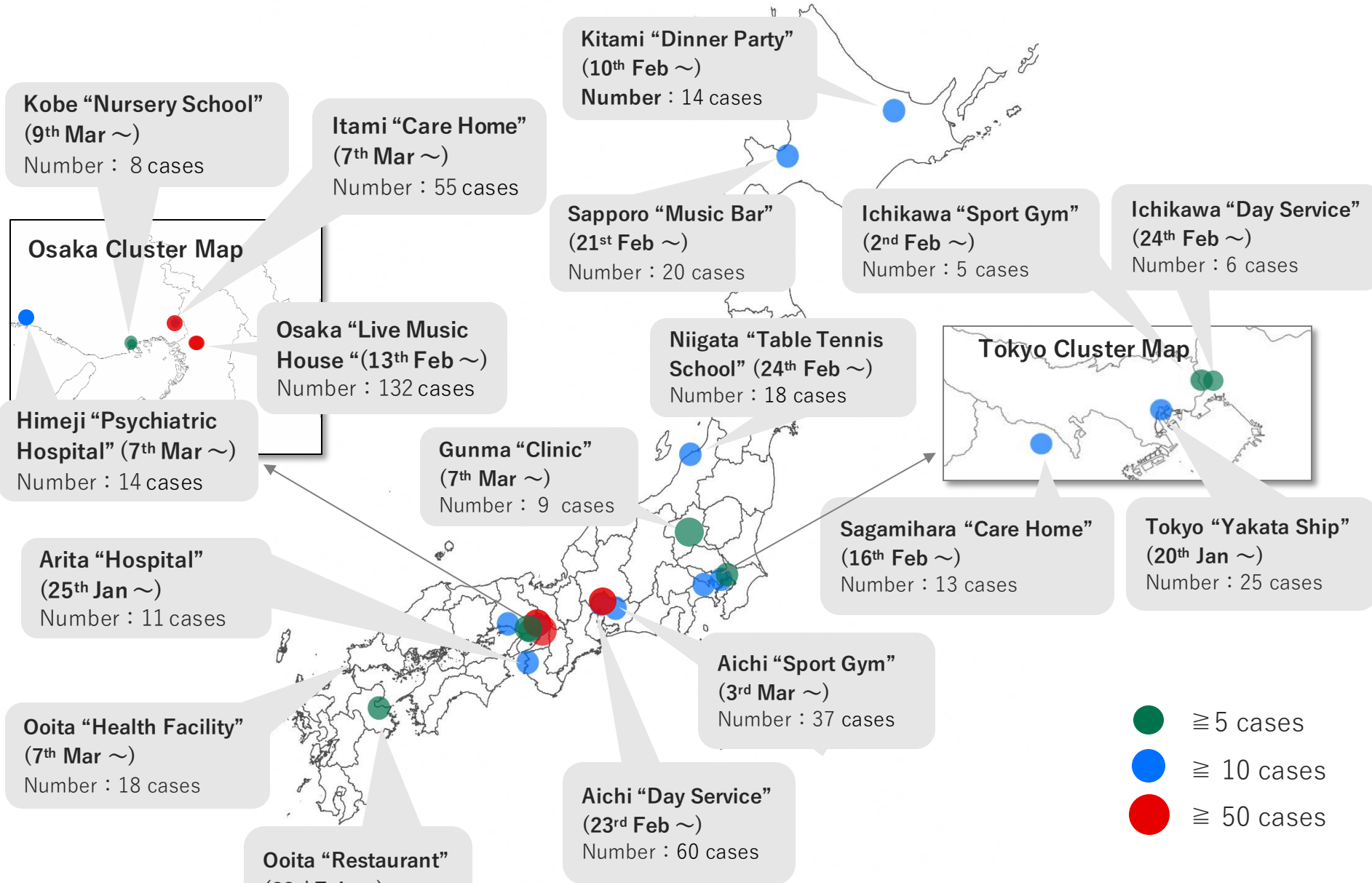
- ① Closed spaces with insufficient ventilation
- ② Crowded conditions with people
- ③ Conversations in short distance



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



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



Common cluster sites

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

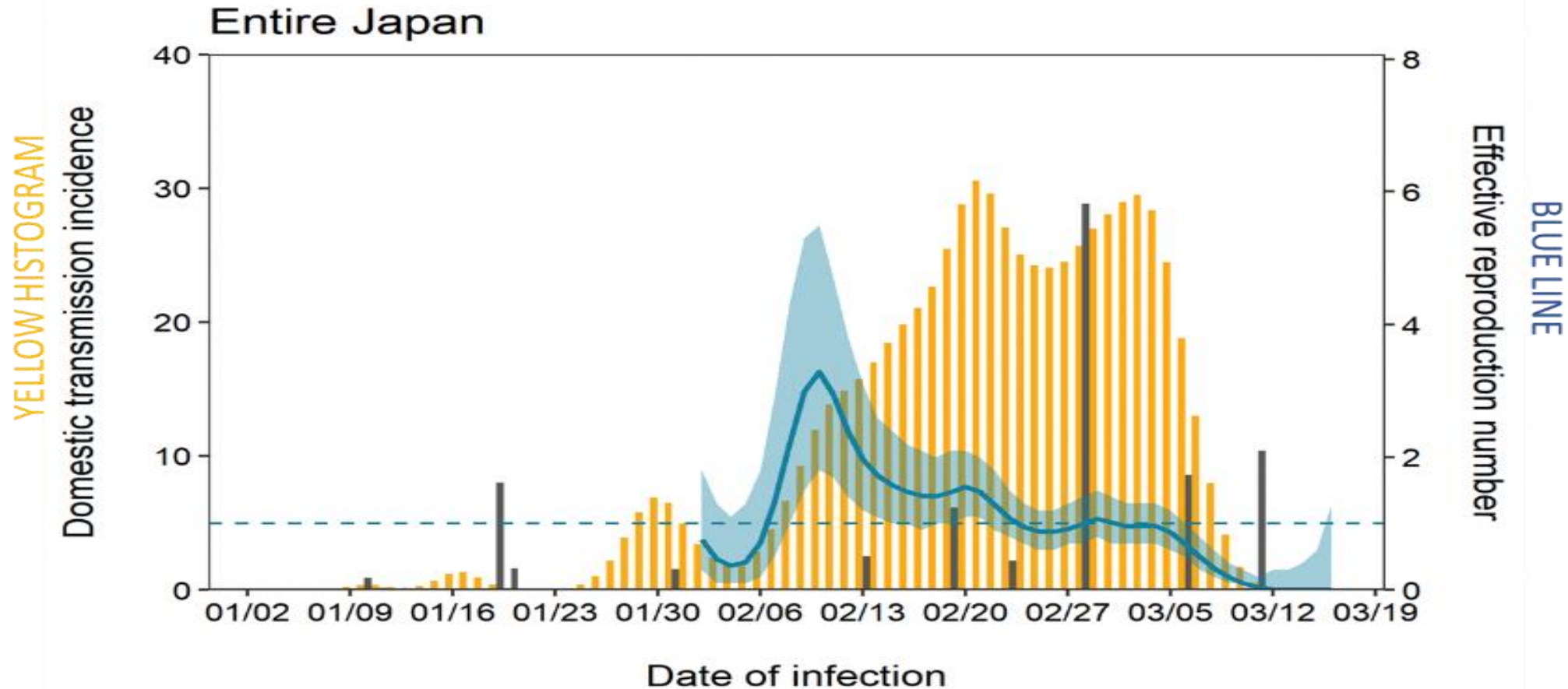


(Note 1) Number indicates the infected cases in the cluster, not in the prefecture
 (Note 2) Number includes the secondary cases in the cluster
 (Note 3) Clusters are grouped by Prof. Oshitani and Prof. Nishiura

● ≧ 5 cases
 ● ≧ 10 cases
 ● ≧ 50 cases

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, compared with the countries with high frequency of infected cases

Strengths and Challenges

【Strengths】

1. Good access to health care system.
2. All suspected cases are being tested in principle.
3. Moderate social distancing policy, considering local situation and economic damage.
4. Hard work of local public health centers, especially public health nurses.

【Challenges】

1. Further Strengthening epidemiological capacity at the central and local levels.
2. Balancing social distancing policy and economic damage.
3. Enhancing public awareness especially among younger generation.
4. Improving coordination and communication between central and local levels.