

JMA and RSMC-Tokyo's Measures against COVID-19

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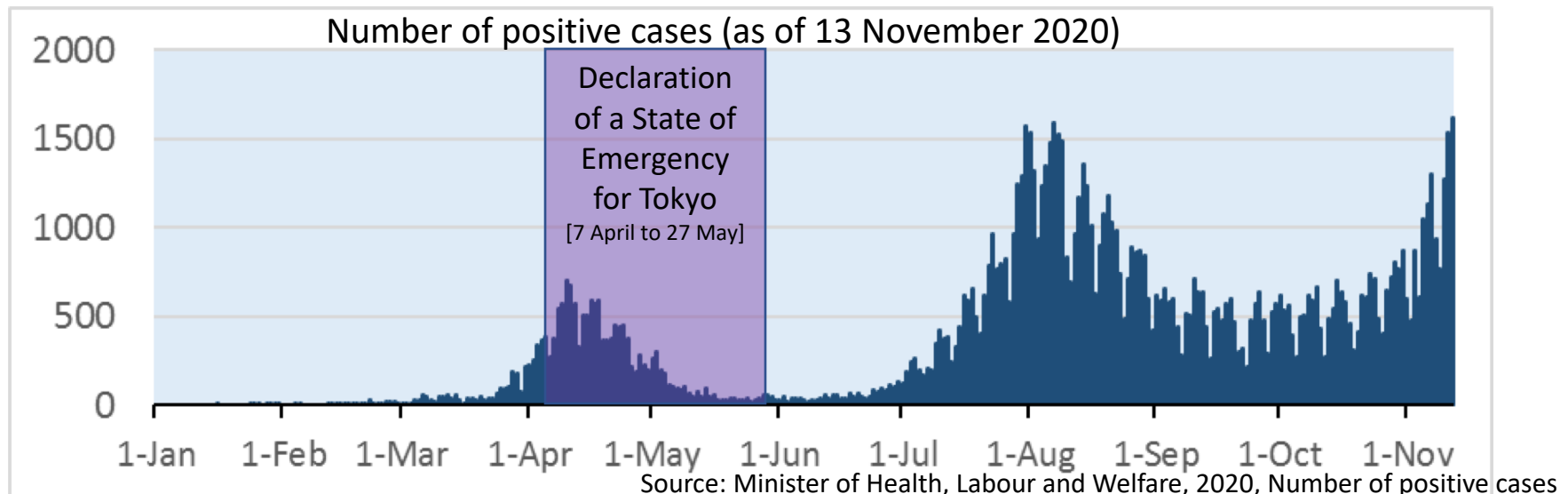
Japan Meteorological Agency

Outline of this presentation

- Overview of the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan and JMA's measures
- Measures to **restrict** physical contact between operational forecasters and others
- Measures to **reduce** physical contact among operational forecasters
 - Measures by **hardware** and **software**
- Preparation of **contingency plans**
- Review of the measures

Overview of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Japan and JMA's measures

- JMA has escalated COVID-19 measures depending on the domestic situation on spreading infection
- In the Headquarters, top-level measures had been implemented from 23 April to 31 May 2020
- Fortunately, we saw no positive cases in JMA's forecasters



JMA's measures:

High-level

Top-level

High-level

Measures to restrict physical contact between operational forecasters and others

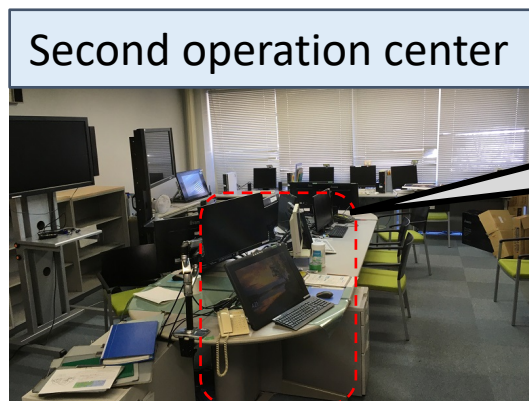
- JMA's Headquarters
 - Restrictions on the admission of visitors
- 24-hour Operation Centers (including adjacent restrooms on the floors)
 - Operational forecasters and authorized personnel only
 - Report needed at every single time when he/she enters



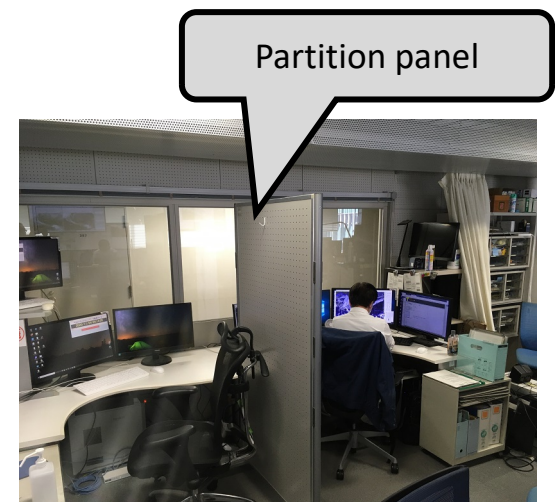
Measures to reduce physical contact among operational forecasters (1/2)

Measures by **hardware**

- Establishment of temporally “second” operation centers
 - Day-time-shift forecasters in main operation center
 - Night-time-shift forecasters in second operation center
- Setting partition panels between forecasters
- Setting fixed routes for forecasters to avoid coming across each other



Typhoon monitoring and forecasting PC



Measures to reduce physical contact among operational forecasters (2/2)

Measures by **software**

- Installation of business communication platforms



Microsoft Teams



Office Outlook

- Virtual “baton pass” between day and night shifts
- Promoting working-from-home workstyle on every non-duty day
- Frequent ventilation and disinfection
- Sharing synoptic charts without face-to-face manner



Forecaster's diary (virtual “baton pass”)

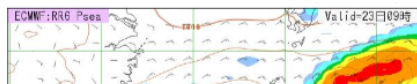
05/21 16:29
本日21日日勤、
です。T当番日誌をお送りします。

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・日勤

- 南シナ海の対流雲域

- 香港の南海上に継続して対流雲が発生している。ECMWFの00UTC解析値における850hPaにおける風の水平シアと対応しており、地上では小さな渦が表現されている。



Synoptic chart box



Preparation of contingency plans

- Several contingency plans were developed depending on the positive cases to be found in JMA.
 - Fortunately, this contingency plan has not been activated.

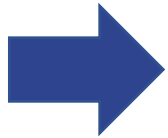
Severity: mild -> moderate -> severe		
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Keeping ordinal operation system without positive-case forecasters	Supplying alternate forecasters to operation	Suspension of issuing low-prioritized information

Typhoon advisories are excluded

RSMC-Tokyo maintains its operation system to constantly provide typhoon advisories and information. 7

Review of the measures

- Generally, **well adapting to “with-COVID-19” operation**
 - Partly thanks to nearly absence of severe weather/ typhoons in before-monsoonal (heavy rain) season.
- Difficulties on urgent establishment of “second” operation centers
 - Preparation of necessary equipment (PCs, telephones, UPSs, printers, chairs and desks)
 - Installation of additional telecommunication lines



It is essential to cooperate with relevant departments

It is important to envision how to respond and prepare for possible situation



Thank you for your attention