

# **Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic in Japan**

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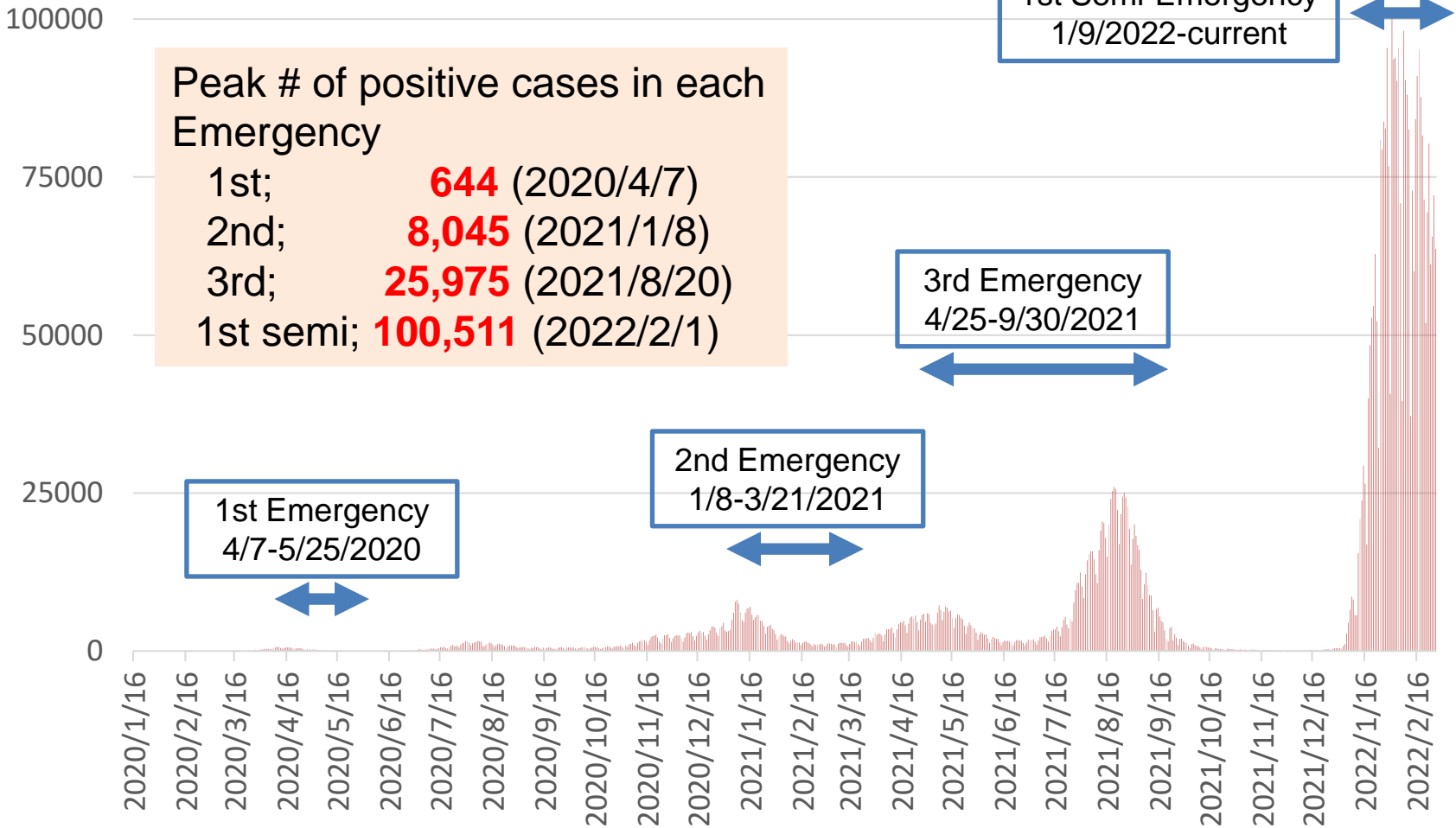
1. Impacts of the Covid-19 in Japan
2. Regulatory Activities in the Covid-19 Pandemic  
*- Licensing, Oversight and Others -*
3. Lessons Learned

# *1. Impacts of the Covid-19 in Japan*

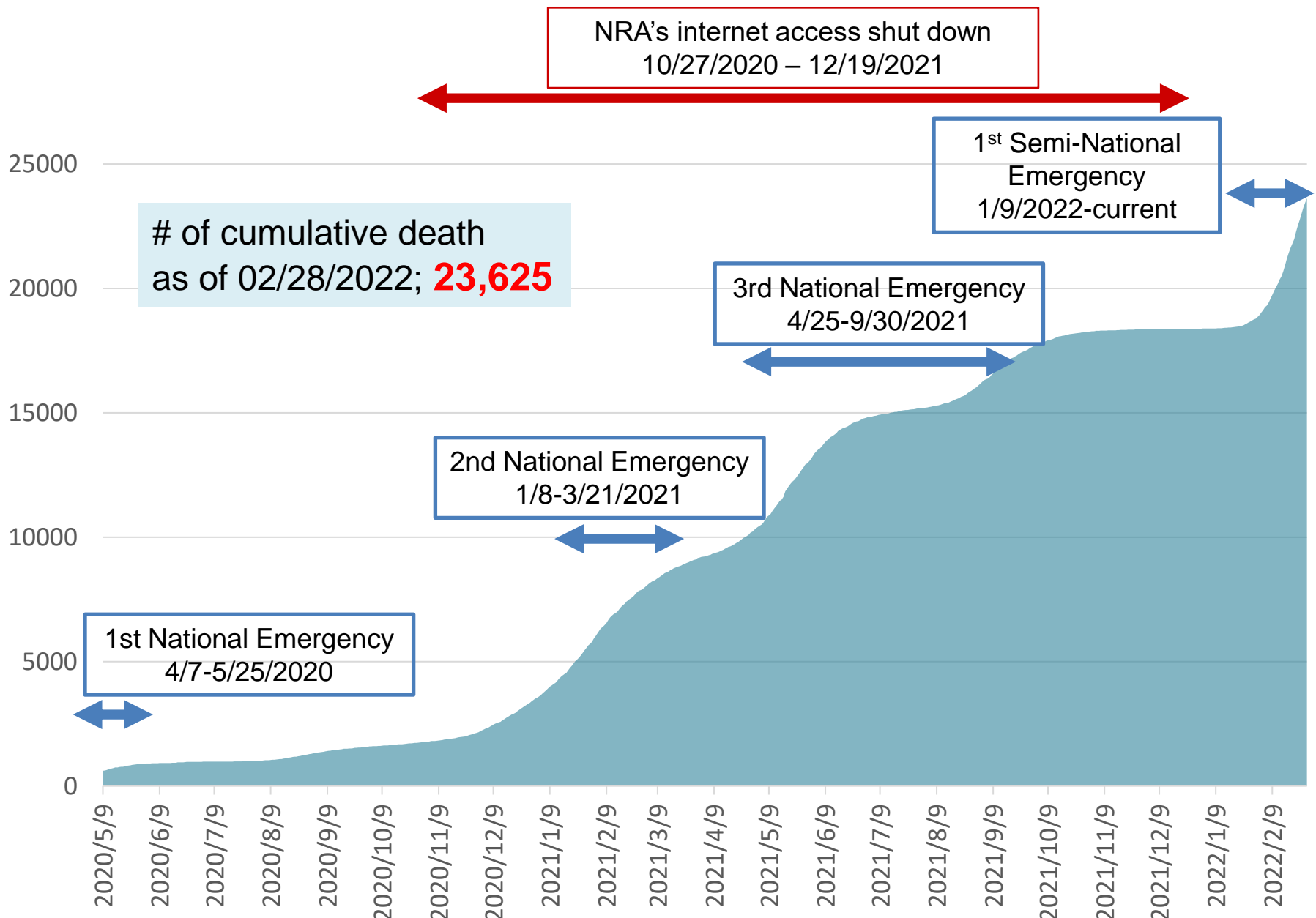
# Covid-19 positive cases in Japan

NRA's internet access shut down  
10/27/2020 – 12/19/2021

Cumulative cases as of 02/27/2022; **4,875,786**



# Number of cumulative deaths in Japan



## *2. Regulatory Activities in the Covid-19 Pandemic - Licensing, Oversight and Others -*

- Open (YouTube Live) face-to-face **review meetings** with licensees turned to be web-based meetings with more physical distance between participants who wear masks.
- Public observers were not in the meeting room. (they can observe the meetings through YouTube.)
- Other communication with licensees also conducted using webex and other web-meeting applications.
- Business trip of licensee staffs to Tokyo reduced.



Before the Pandemic



Now

- Most **baseline inspections by resident inspectors** (RIs) have been conducted as planned.
- RIs visit facilities everyday, but sometimes they are not allowed to enter control rooms and to physically contact with operators.
- In regional branches\*, NRA staffs including RIs are divided into 2 groups and work separately in order to avoid Covid-19 clusters.



2 groups of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Regional Branch

*\*The NRA has 22 regional branches near major nuclear facilities such as nuclear power stations, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, and test reactors. The number of NRA staffs in each branch varies from 3 to 14.*

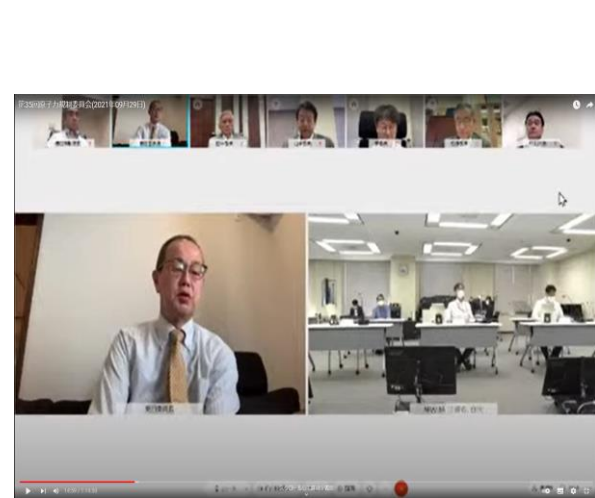


- For **team inspections** by HQ (@Tokyo) specialists, some were postponed, some were implemented by resident inspectors, and some were done only through record and document checks (especially, in the Apr.-Jun. quarter of 2020)
- When HQ specialists visited nuclear facilities for inspections, they stayed in hotels near the facilities for 2 weeks before entering the sites. (only during the 1st National Emergency)
- Preparations such as document checks are done remotely

## Examples of team inspections postponed

- Radiation Protection team inspections @ Takahama NPS
- Fire protection (Triennial) @ Ikata and Sendai NPSs
- In-Service Inspection @ Ohi NPS
- Problem Identification and Resolution @ Shika, Shimane, Ikata NPSs

- The Commissioners Meetings are held using remote systems.
- Quarterly counterpart meetings are also held remotely.
- Other NRA's activities at nuclear facilities, such as OJTs of NRA staffs, site researches of technical reviewers and management observations were suspended or postponed.
- Thermometer and disinfectant at the entrance of the Emergency Response Center (ERC)



Commissioners Meeting



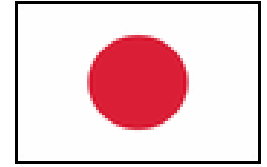
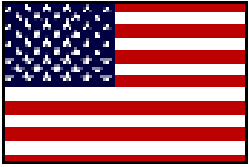
Counterpart Meeting



Thermometer and disinfectant @ERC Entrance

## *3. Lessons Learned*

- Remote technologies are useful as to improve both effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory activities.
- Job practices are changing from face-to-face to remote mode, especially more and more NRA staffs work at home.
- Fundamental measures, such as distance, masks, and disinfection, are essential.
- The NRA has more remote interaction with licensees in the licensing process.
- Physical site activities, such as walkdown and communication with licensees' staffs, are essential for effective oversight of nuclear facilities.



***Thank you for your attention***

*My deepest sympathy for all Ukrainians  
who are facing hardships and adversity.*

