

Statement

We Call for Cancelling the Olympics

We, workers sworn to protect lives and livelihoods, strongly demand the cancellation of the Olympics.

Holding the Olympics during the time of the pandemic is an abhorrent and violent act. COVID-19 is still running rampant in many parts of the world. In Japan, the host country for the Olympics, the COVID-19 appeared in January 2020, leading to the first wave peak. Despite a state of emergency being declared twice, the fourth wave peak occurred in April of 2021. Even after the third state of emergency, COVID-19 cases still seem to be increasing, and it is probably that a fifth wave peak will occur around the opening date of the Olympics on July 23. Although the Suga administration continues to preach to the world that it will hold the Olympics safely, there is no basis for such a statement.

According to a survey taken on May 16th by Kyodo News [*Kyodo tsushin*], 87.7% of respondents were concerned about increased infection due to the incoming athletes from abroad, and 59.7% stated that the event should be cancelled. While we (medical, nursing, care and welfare workers) have been pouring our energy into caring for COVID-19 patients, protecting the vulnerable members of society, and disseminating the vaccine, it will be impossible to respond to issues related to COVID-19 that emerge from the Olympics. Conducting the Olympics this summer in Japan will risk sacrificing many precious lives.

Therefore, cancelling the Olympics is the duty of the government that is responsible for protecting the lives and livelihoods of all people in Japan, including Olympic-related persons from all nations.

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Medical, Care and Welfare Workers Network for Lives and Livelihoods

Co-representatives

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