



Japan has decided that foreign spectators will not be welcomed at this summer's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics due to COVID-19 concerns.

The Olympics and Paralympics are scheduled for this summer after being postponed for a year. The Japanese government has decided not to invite fans from abroad because there are public concerns about the coronavirus and the detection of more **contagious** variants in many countries. It's also said that the opening ceremony of the **torch relay** will be held without spectators.

In the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, international fans accounted for 20% of ticket sales. However, a recent poll showed that 77% of Japanese people did not want international visitors at the games amid fears over a **resurgence** of infections.

Japan has been hit hard by a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, and Tokyo remains under a state of emergency.

Difficult words: **contagious** (spread from one person to another by contact), **torch relay** (when a ceremonial torch is carried and passed by torchbearers as a symbol of the Olympic message of peace and hope), **resurgence** (a new start or a sudden, great increase in activity).



Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *contagious*, *torch relay* and *resurgence*
2. Why were foreign spectators not welcomed in the Tokyo's summer Olympics and Paralympics?
3. What is the main concern of the general public in Japan that they did not want fans from abroad to witness the events?
4. According to a survey, how many Japanese people did not want foreign visitors at the games?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Did you approve of the government's decision of not allowing foreign spectators at the games?
2. Before the onslaught of the pandemic, did you try your luck to get tickets to watch the games?
3. Would you say that the Tokyo Summer Olympics was a success despite everything they had to undergo?