

INSIGHT REPORT HIGHLIGHT

Japan: Playing Safe during the Summer Games

July 2021



The postponed summer Games will take place between 23 July and 5 September in Tokyo and eight other prefectures across Japan amid ongoing restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Insight Report Highlight provides an overview of health, security and travel-related challenges during the summer Games as well as recommendations to help facilitate better-informed, better-prepared and safer trips.

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This extract is taken from our detailed Security Insight Report, exclusively available to International SOS premium intelligence subscribers.

The full report examines in further detail the related health, security and travel risks as well as logistical practicalities.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Games will take place mainly in the capital Tokyo, as well as Chiba (Chiba prefecture), Fukushima (Fukushima prefecture), Sapporo (Hokkaido prefecture), Kashima (Ibaraki prefecture), Enoshima and Yokohama (Kanagawa prefecture), Saitama (Saitama prefecture), Sendai (Miyagi prefecture) and Izu (Shizuoka prefecture).

They will be held under a state of emergency, which is in effect in Tokyo until 22 August. As COVID-19 remains an ongoing risk, movement or other restrictions may suddenly be imposed by the authorities at any time. Participants in the Games may face punitive measures such as deportation if they do not adhere to COVID-19-related restrictions.

While Japan is prone to earthquakes, the Games are also due to take place during typhoon season, which may lead to heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides. Visitors and participants need to be aware of the main risks and know how to react should such a disaster occur.

Heightened sensitivities exist in the country due to the perceived risk of importation of COVID-19 and a potential for a further increase in cases, while communities are still heavily impacted by states of emergency. Protests and rallies are possible in the vicinity of stadiums and other key sites as related events proceed.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGERS

Below are some of our recommendations to manage the safety and security of your in-country workforce in the lead-up to the Games:

- Internal incident plans should be updated to consider security incidents, including natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons. Managers should have access to all travellers' contact details and itineraries and understand their workforce's approximate locations. Managers are encouraged to have a robust communications plan in place, including the ability to notify and account for the safety of workforce across multiple technological platforms.
- Managers should ensure that their workforce are trained to respond to common security incidents such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Workforce should get familiarised with the

- evacuation sites closest to their accommodation and the places they will be visiting, as well as the Japan Meteorological Agency's (JMA) tsunami warning system. The Tokyo Metropolitan Prevention Map (Japanese, with English translations available) shows the evacuation shelters located within the Greater Tokyo Area.
- Managers should check the latest playbooks published by the organisers and ensure travellers comply with the listed restrictions, including downloading any health regulation apps as well as adhering to short-notice movement restrictions. Managers should ensure all necessary transport and accommodation arrangements are booked in advance.
- Managers should consider purchasing insurance in the event of last-minute changes or cancellation of events, and ensure schedules are left flexible.



The Insight Report series provides our experts' insights and advice on events or situations which may require our clients' attention due to their potential impact on the risk environment. It covers a variety of themes under Global Insight, Natural Disasters and Climate Insight, Geopolitical Insight, Elections Insight, Crisis Insight, Conflict & Terrorism Insight and Country Profile Insight.

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Enquiries

For further information about the assessments or recommendations in this report and/or to learn how we can support your organisation to build a resilient workforce, please contact us via the enquiry form:

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