

# Lessons from Tokyo2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic

*Leçons tirées de Tokyo2020 pendant la pandémie de COVID-19*

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**The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker  
and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of these affiliated organizations.**

**COI declaration:**  
**The speaker has no conflicts of interest directly relevant to the content of this presentation.**

# My roles in Tokyo2020



- Advisor on Infectious Disease Control for Tokyo2020 to Tokyo Metropolitan Government (2016-)
- Advisor to Coordination Meeting for COVID-19 countermeasures at Tokyo2020 (3-party-meeting)
- Member, COVID-19 Expert Roundtable for TOCOG
- Manager, NIID EOC for Tokyo2020

3-party-meeting: Meeting of the Government of Japan, TOCOG and the host city (Tokyo Metropolitan Govt.)  
TOCOG: The Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games



NHK news, Sept.4, 2020



(L) Seiko HASHIMOTO, President of TOCOG2020  
(R) Toshiro MUTO, DG of TOCOG2020

September, 2013



# International Mass Gathering and High Visibility Events in Japan

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# Tokyo2020 Governance Structure

## Headquarters for the Promotion of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Established by the Special Act on Measures for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (2015)  
Head: Prime Minister, Managed by the State Minister for Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Games

Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games  
(Cabinet Secretariat)

Relevant Ministries and Agencies

SUPPORT



COLLABORATION

## Tokyo Organising Committee for Olympic/Paralympic Games (TOCOG)

Tokyo  
Metropolitan  
Government

Host  
Prefecture/City  
Governments

Japan Olympic  
Committee (JOC)

Japan Paralympic  
Committee (JPC)

Others

Modified from 東京オリンピック競技大会・東京パラリンピック競技大会と政府機関等の協力（令和4年6月）[https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020\\_suishin\\_honbu/index.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020_suishin_honbu/index.html)

# Public Health Preparedness for Tokyo2020 before COVID-19

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Heat Shock



Import of  
exotic infectious diseases



Natural disasters



Mass casualty  
(Terrorism)

# Infectious Disease Risk Assessment for Tokyo2020 before COVID-19

- **Key factors**

- Potential of importation
- Transmissibility
- Probability of large-scale outbreaks and high severity

- **Vulnerability assessment**

- Difficulty in diagnosis
- Burden in response



Infectious Disease Risk Assessment for Tokyo 2020 Games (NIID IDSC, Oct 5, 2017)



# Infectious Disease Risk Assessment for Tokyo2020 before COVID-19

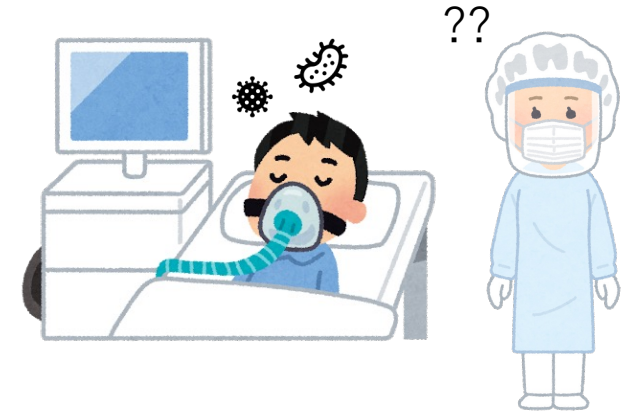
			Potential for importation	Transmissibility	Probability of large-scale outbreaks and high severity
Vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs)	Measles	●	○	○	○
	Rubella		○	○	
	Invasive meningococcal disease	●		○	○
	Influenza		○	○	
	Pertussis		○	○	
Emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases	Middle East respiratory syndrome	●	○	○	○
	Mosquito-borne infectious diseases (dengue fever, Chikungunya fever, Zika virus infection)	●	○		
Foodborne Infectious diseases	Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli infection (EHEC)			○	○
	Shigellosis		○	○	
	Hepatitis A		○	○	
	Hepatitis E		○	○	
	Infectious gastroenteritis (including norovirus infection)		○	○	
Other	Tuberculosis		○	○	
	Syphilis		○	○	
	HIV/AIDS		○	○	

● The burden in response is considered as high.

Infectious Disease Risk Assessment for Tokyo 2020 Games (NIID IDSC, Oct 5, 2017)

# Reinforcement of Surveillance

- **Early reporting of undiagnosed illness**
  - Undiagnosed Serious Infectious Illness (USII) Surveillance
- **Information-sharing platform** for potentially epidemic-prone infectious diseases in NESID system
  - MERS, EHEC, IMD, Measles, Rubella, (COVID-19)



\*NESID: National Epidemiological Surveillance of Infectious Diseases

# Action Plan on Infectious Diseases for Tokyo 2020 Games\*

- **Surveillance and situation awareness**
  - Enhanced surveillance
- **Risk communication**
- **Prevention of importing diseases**
  - Quarantine measures
- **Immunization for Rubella and Measles**
- Prevention of Food poisoning

\*Action Plan to manage infectious diseases toward the Olympic and Paralympics Games Tokyo2020, Aug. 1, 2019







# Coordination Meeting for COVID-19 Countermeasures at Tokyo2020 since Sept. 2020

## “3-party-meeting”

- Govt. of Japan
- Tokyo Metropolitan Govt.
- Tokyo2020 Organizing Committee

# Considerations & Uncertainties

## Considerations

- Athletes and Games staff
  - Venues, villages, and host towns
  - Special considerations for Paralympic athletes
- Spectators
- Related events e.g. the Torch Relay, Live Sites
- Prevention/Surveillance  
/Detection/Response

## Uncertainties

- COVID-19 situation in the World/Japan/Tokyo
- Travel restrictions/Border control
- Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness, availability, coverage
- Emergence of variants



# Risk reduction strategy

## - multiple layers of measures

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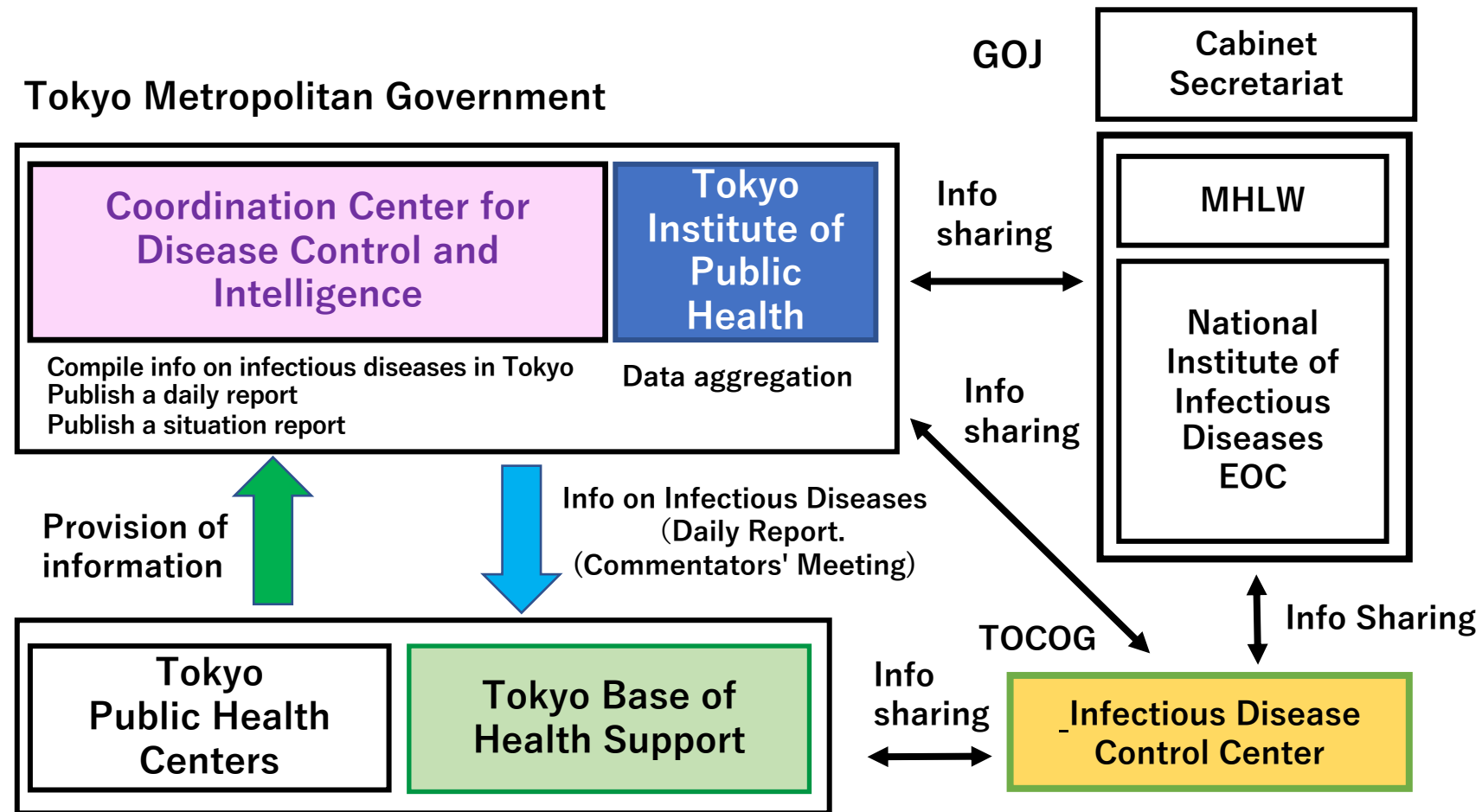
- No one single solution
- Prevention and control measures in every journey
- Downsizing
  - Game-related visitors from overseas
  - Related events
  - spectators



# COVID-19 countermeasures for Tokyo2020 Playbooks

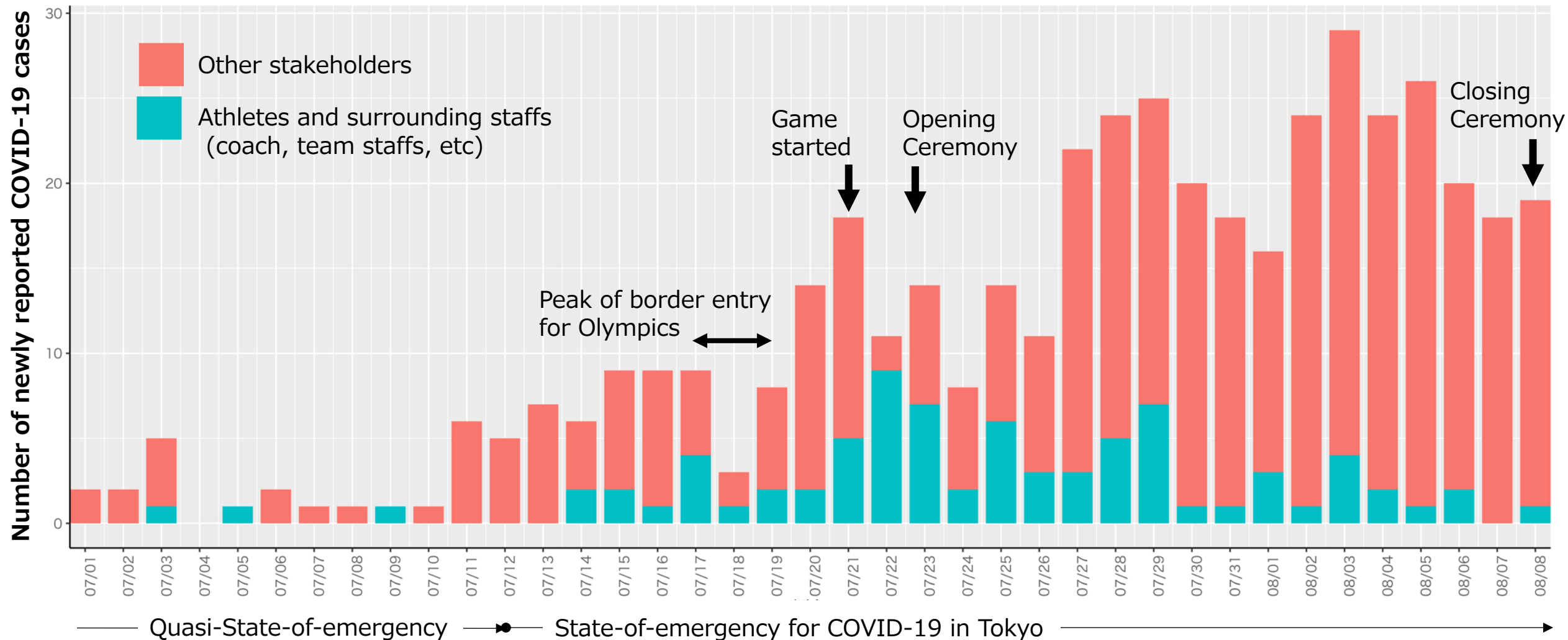


# The Roles of relevant agencies in sharing of information on infectious disease control during the Tokyo 2020 Games

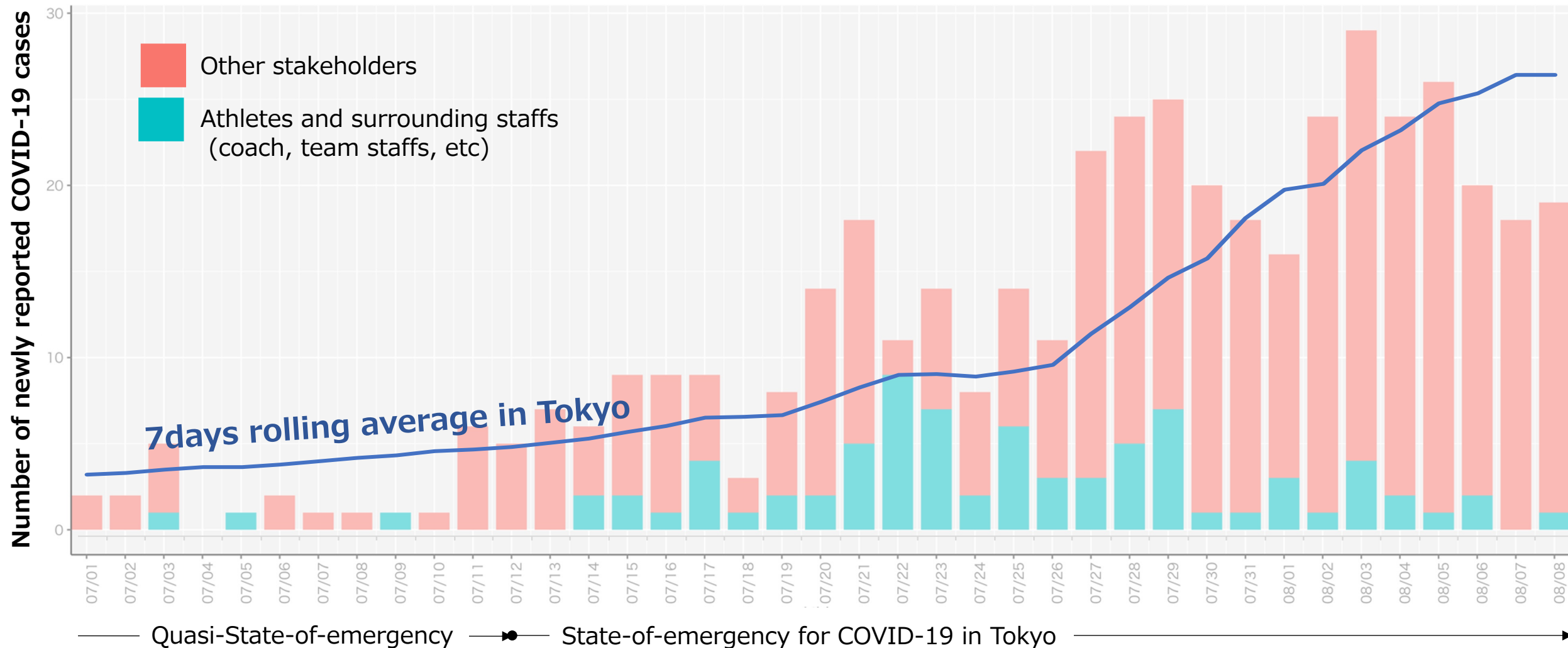


Modified from Global Mass Gathering during Pandemic: Interim Overview of COVID-19 countermeasures during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games (March 2022)

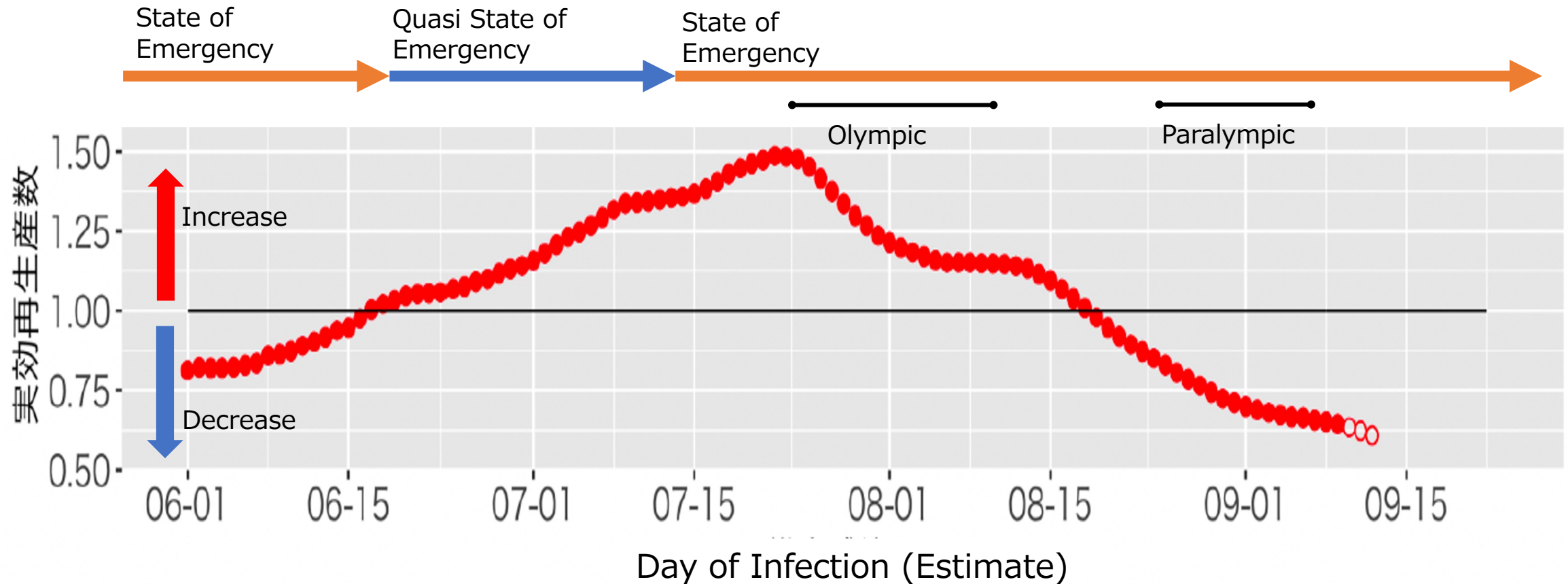
# Epi curve of COVID-19 cases among athletes and other stakeholders for Tokyo Olympic Games (n=453, July 1 to Aug 8, 2020, as of Aug 9 2021)



# Epi curve of COVID-19 cases among athletes and other stakeholders for Tokyo Olympic Games (n=453, July 1 to Aug 8, 2020, as of Aug 9 2021)



# Effective Reproduction Number (Rt) of COVID-19 in Japan



NIID CSEIR. MHLW COVID-19 Advisory Board Meeting. Sept, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

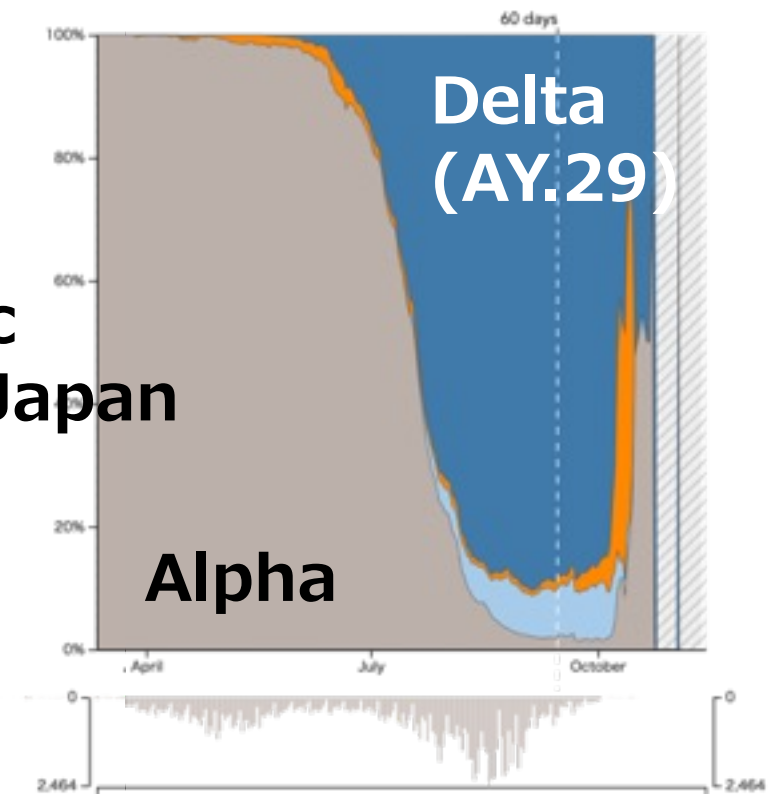


# SARS-CoV-2 variant situation in Japan supports effectiveness of the Olympic bubble.

## AY. 29 cumulative prevalence by country



## Lineage prevalence in Japan last 60days



# Non-COVID-19 events on infectious diseases during Tokyo2020 in Japan

## Among stakeholders

- No signals detected on priority diseases
  - MERS, Invasive Meningococcal Diseases, EHEC, Measles, Rubella

## Others

- Local outbreaks of RS virus, legionellosis, EHEC at a seasonal level
- No infectious disease event other than COVID-19 which may have impact to the Games was detected through the global and domestic event-based surveillance.

# Summary

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- Hosting a major international sporting event under a pandemic was unusual and challenging.
- Direct and in-direct impacts may have been minimized **by layers of measures** both in and outside the bubble –scaling down the event/infection control/early detection by an intensive screening/early response/vaccination/social distancing measures.

# Lessons

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- Risk assessment/management/communication are the standard steps that should always be followed.
- Prepare to ensure “nothing is happening”
- Build networks of stakeholders and establish a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Protect citizens
- Enjoy the Games