

BBC World News - Coronavirus Olympics

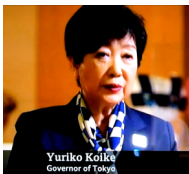
19 July 2021 10:00 am



Well the Tokyo Olympics get **underway** this week but there's already a growing number of athletes and officials testing positive for covid or being forced to **self isolate**. In the Olympic **village** 2 players and a coach from the South African men's football team have the virus. 8 members of team GB athletic's team are in isolation. That's after they were in close contact with positive cases. And the America tennis star, Coco Gauff, has announced she's not going to Tokyo after she tested positive. Well, **despite** the worsening covid situation and **significant** public **opposition** to these games the governor of Tokyo told the BBC it would have been worse to cancel. From Tokyo Rupert Windfield Hayes reports:

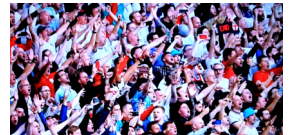
With 5 days to go the anti Olympic protests are not going away. This one is outside the hotel where IOC president Thomas Bach is staying. Their message to him is pretty **blunt**.

Over at the Olympic village 3 covid cases have now been **confirmed**. Across the city 14 hundred new cases on Saturday. Despite this, I sat down with the governor of Tokyo she told me the games must go ahead.



I believe that not holding the Olympics is even sadder than holding him during these dire times. I do not want to show the world that we have lost to Covid 19. There is still meaning in holding the Olympics in Tokyo despite the current situation.

This was Wembley Stadium in London a week ago. But with just 20% of Japanese vaccinated there will be no **scenes** like this in Tokyo's Olympic stadium.



Governor Koike **concedes** if Japan had moved faster on vaccines things might have been different.



I agree. It would have been better. If we had a faster vaccination **rollout** we may have been able to have **spectators** at Olympics. But the speed of vaccine rollout has now increased immensely.

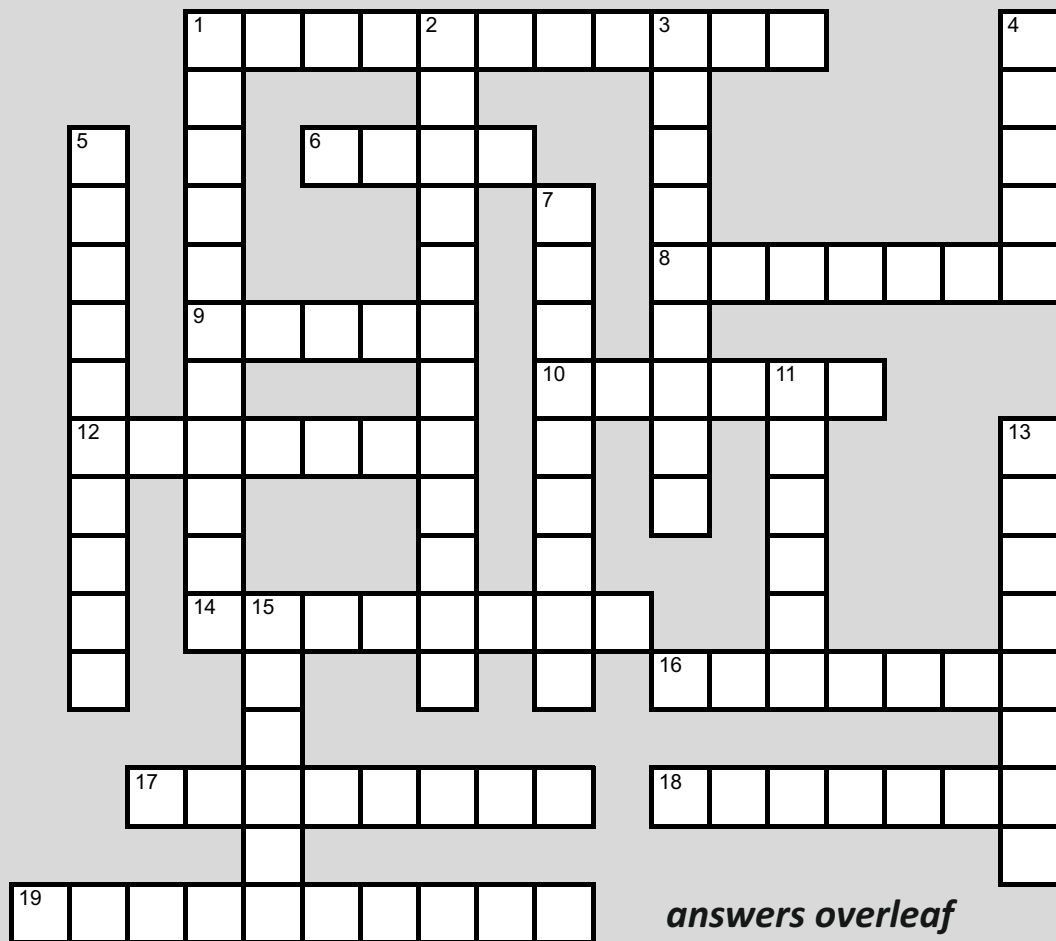
Not fast enough. This is Kyoto, Japan's **ancient** capital and number one tourist site. By now this place should have been **thronged** with **hordes** of tourists from all over the world. For Japan that was to be the big pay off. Invest billions and billions in hosting the Olympics and then millions of travellers will come from all over the world to your great cultural **institutions** spending lots of money. As you can see, there's nobody here.

Shop owners here have seen sales fall by more than 90%.

It is the government's **fault**. Look at the other countries like the UK and Taiwan. They seems to be doing well. But look at Japan. I cannot believe we call ourselves a developed country.



Back in Tokyo hundreds of athletes are now arriving each day. It is now clear that some of them will be carrying covid. The IOC's **assertion** that the Games represent zero **risk** to public health is already starting to look **flimsy**. Rupert Winfield Hayes, BBC News, in Tokyo.



Across ►

- 1 Live alone away from other people (4,7)
- 6 Danger or chance of danger (4)
- 8 launch (start) and production of something (7)
- 9 Responsibility for a bad situation, event or happening (5)
- 10 weak, poor, hard to believe (6)
- 12 Very old (7)
- 14 filled or crowded (8)
- 16 In spite of, regardless of, in the face of (7)
- 17 Happening, started and going (8)
- 18 A place smaller than a town or a small group living together (7)
- 19 The action of being against something (10)

Down ▼

- 1 Important enough to be counted or seen (11)
- 2 Important places (or ideas) for a society or culture (12)
- 3 Claim or statement (9)
- 4 Direct, frank, strong and true spoken (5)
- 5 People who watch sport or some kind of show (10)
- 7 Tested or checked and known to be true (9)
- 11 Views or pictures (6)
- 13 Admits or says something is true after first not agreeing so (8)
- 15 Large groups or moving crowds (6)