

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2020

Mr. Thomas Bach
President
International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
Case postale 356
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Bach:

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, we write today to inquire about the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) plans to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2/Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and protect the thousands of athletes, fans, sponsors and members of the media who will be traveling to Tokyo, Japan, for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad. This deserves the immediate attention of the IOC along with a transparent, detailed description of protocols in place to deter further spread of the disease.

From past experience, the IOC knows the effect that global calamities can have on staging a successful Olympic Games. While the Olympic Games were cancelled three times during the first half of the 20th Century due to the ongoing conflicts of World War I and World War II, the cancelation of the games should be a last resort. Every athlete who will compete as an Olympian has devoted years, some their lives, to competing for their country and showcasing their talent on a global stage. For some, this will be their first Olympic Games, but for many, this is their last chance to fulfil their dreams.

In 2015, prior to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the host country had an outbreak of the Zika virus, and many called for the games to be postponed or moved. Largely due to the close coordination by the IOC, WHO, and Brazilian government officials, the 2016 Olympic Games concluded without a single case of the Zika virus being reported.

However, COVID-19 is easily spread by human transmission and that represents a major threat for all public gatherings. As proven by the origins of this outbreak, a single infected person in a large gathering of people can spread this disease at a rapid pace. Come June 2020, thousands of people from around the world will converge on Tokyo and later return to their home country. This public event, particularly with an exposed population that has a wide distribution geographically, is concerning. If not handled properly, this year's Olympic Games present a dangerous opportunity for COVID-19 to spread at unprecedented levels throughout the globe.

Ensuring a safe and secure environment for athletes, fans, sponsors and members of the media from the threat of COVID-19 should be a top priority for the IOC, the Japanese Government, the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC), and all National Olympic Committees (NOC) around the world. With the 2020 Olympic Games just a few months away, preparations are likely already

underway. While there are indications that IOC has taken steps to protect travelers to the upcoming Olympic Games from this disease, many questions remain unanswered. As such, please provide written responses to the questions found below:

1. While we are aware that the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has an Infectious Disease Advisory Group, what internal organizational measures or actions has the IOC taken, to date, to specifically address and coordinate plans to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in preparing for the 2020 Olympic Games?
2. Were there infectious disease coordination protocols for the 2020 Olympic Games in place prior to the initial reports of the COVID-19 outbreak? If so, what were those protocols?
3. Please describe in detail the IOC's coordination efforts with the WHO, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Government of Japan, and the relevant local health agencies in Tokyo to prepare for the upcoming Olympic Games and the expected influx of attendees.
4. Are there specific contingency plans to effectively respond to a confirmed case or cases of COVID-19 during the games? If so, what are these plans?
5. Please describe the frequency and substance of communications with the participating NOCs and their members.
6. Are unique precautions being taken related to specific NOCs that are geographically located in countries with prevalent numbers of COVID-19 cases? If so, what are those measures?
7. Please describe in detail any other relevant actions being taken by the IOC as it relates to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Please provide written responses to these questions as soon as possible, but by no later than April 10, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact our staff at (202) 224-6521. We remain eager to learn what measures the IOC will take and how you will coordinate with the relevant parties. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator