

Authors' reply: Independent investigation may be more reliable in the event with political nature

To the Editor,

We agree with the authors of the correspondence about challenges in a cruise ship with COVID-19 outbreak.¹ Their first claim that passengers and crew were not treated equally during the quarantine speaks to similar issue as in our report, indicating lack of implementing isolation measure for close contacts of crew.² Further to this, we also described lack of an organized command system, as well as lack of government accountability and transparency during the outbreak.² Nonetheless, we welcome their additional suggestion that the government should publish potential causes for and implications of the additional outbreak beyond the quarantine to the international scientific community so that similar outbreaks may be swiftly prevented. However, given the absence of government-driven publications, we published this report based on our independent investigation, which may be more reliable considering the inherently sensitive and political nature of the events.²

KEYWORDS

2019-nCoV, coronavirus, COVID-19, infection control, infection prevention

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have stated explicitly that there are no conflicts of interest in connection with this article.

Yasuharu Tokuda MD, MPH, PhD, FACP¹ 

Tomoko Sakihama RN, PhD²

Makoto Aoki MD³

Kiyosu Taniguchi MD, PhD⁴

Gautam A. Deshpande MA, MD⁵

Satoshi Suzuki MD⁶ 

Sakon Uda MS, MBA⁷

Kiyoshi Kurokawa MD, MACP⁸

¹Muribushi Okinawa Center for Teaching Hospitals, Okinawa, Japan

²International University of Health and Welfare Graduate School, Tokyo, Japan

³Sakura Seiki, Co., Tokyo, Japan

⁴National Hospital Organization Mie National Hospital, Mie, Japan

⁵John A. Burns School of Medicine, Univ of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, USA

⁶Tone Chuo Hospital, Gunma, Japan

⁷Business Breakthrough University, Tokyo, Japan

⁸National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan

Correspondence

Yasuharu Tokuda, Muribushi Okinawa Center for Teaching Hospitals, School of Medicine, University of Tsukuba, 3-42-8 Iso, Urasoe City 901-2132, Okinawa, Japan.

Email: yasuharu.tokuda@gmail.com

ORCID

Yasuharu Tokuda  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9325-7934>

Satoshi Suzuki  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8137-3340>

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