

AUSKF Covid Survey May 2021 (May 25 – June 2, 2021)

The purpose of this survey is to monitor and understand the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic in kendo community within AUSKF in order to assist our members to take proper precautions, make future plans on resuming kendo/ Iaido/ Jodo practice.

Summary of survey results.

Response 90 Dojos: (roughly 226 members)

Reference: we had 113 in March, 96 in January, and 117 in November, 2020 responded, out of approximately 243 dojos in AUSKF.

Q1: Is your dojo physically meeting for practice? Current, (3/21, 1/2021, 11/2020)

No: 20 (32, ,)

Zoom only: 17 (36, ,)

Yes, Outdoor only : 14 (11, 3, 6) 15.5%

Yes, Indoor: 39 (34, 19, 40) 43.3%

Q2: Practice with Bogu?

No: 49 (85, ,)

Yes: 41 (28, ,) 45.5%

No mask or shield: 9

With mask and/or shield : 32

Q3: Kata/ Iai/ Jodo with mask / shield?

No: 37 (77, ,)

NA: 2

Yes, but no mask nor shield: 16 (1, ,) 17.8%

Yes, with mask / shield : 35 (35, ,) 38.9%

Q4: Are you facing each other during practice?

No: 43 (78, ,)

NA: 2

Yes, without mask/ shield: 12 (1, ,) 13.3%

Yes, with mask/ shield: 33 (34, ,) 36.7%

Q5: Any dojo member contracted Covid-19? (Number of Dojos)

No: 63 (86, ,)

Probably yes, but no test: 3 (1, ,) 3%

Yes: 24 (26, ,) 26.7% (was 23.9% in March)

Q6: Covid cases related to Kendo/ Iaido/ Jodo activity at dojo?

Current, (3/2021, 1/2021, 11/2020)

0 (0, 0, 1 dojo 7 members in March 2020)

Q7: Number of Covid cases

54 /226 (23.9%) (47, 19, 51)

Q 12: How many members were vaccinated? (not distinguishing once or twice)

Current, (3/21, 1/21, 11/20)

166/ 226 (73.5%) (216 / 679 = 31.8 %, 44, 0).

Discussion

The number of responses from dojo slightly dropped to 90 from 113 in March, 96 in January. Was 117 in November). **More participation is encouraged to increase the accuracy of our survey.**

Our country was hit by a large second (third?) wave from early December 2020, which continued through January. Accordingly, majority of our members refrained from physically meeting for kendo practice at the time, then we saw recovery of daily activities as well as kendo in March. However, new Covid cases were on the rise in the east coast again in late March. We

now see improvement since late April. This is probably due to accelerated vaccination program in the USA.

Accordingly, almost half of AUSKF dojos are now practicing, and most of them are using the precaution recommended by our guideline.

The Covid-19 cases with (+) test modestly increased to 54. (47 in March, 19 in January, and 51 in November)

Kendo related covid-19 transmission declined from 7 (In March 2020) to 0 in January survey, and **remains 0 in May 2021.**

Unfortunately, **2 members died from Covid-19 in January 2021.** Neither one was related to kendo.

The covid-19 vaccines became available from early-December, and vaccination has started for medical professionals and elderlies. **Vaccine was received by 166/ 226 members (73%) as of May, 2021. It was 216/679 (31.8%) in March, 2021.**

As of June 10, 2021, across the nation, in the USA, 51.9% of the general population has received at least the first dose of vaccine, and 42.6% have completed the full vaccination. In general, to establish 'herd immunity', 70% of the population need to have full immunization/ acquired immunity. The US has made remarkable progress since the vaccination started in December, 2020. If they continue to vaccinate US residents, we might be able to reach the level of establishing herd immunity by late August or September. It may accelerate (by increased vaccine supply), or slow down (reduced vaccine supply, refusal by residents).

Within the AUSKF kendo community, out of those dojos that responded to our survey, **73% have already received at least one dose of vaccine. This is very encouraging, since over 70% will be fully vaccinated by the end of June, and will acquire immunity by mid July.**

So far, both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are showing very promising results. Over 90% effective, and very small number of serious side effects. Pfizer vaccine also demonstrated 100% efficacy in South Africa, where the variant virus affecting younger people is reported. I personally recommend receiving vaccination whenever it is available. However, we cannot make it mandatory, since the clinical data are still in progress, and the vaccines are in use under 'emergency approval' by FDA. Even in hospitals, it is 'recommended, but not mandatory'.

Overall, we would like to thank you again for taking proper precaution in mitigating the risk of pandemic, and we are glad to report that we've **had no Kendo / Iaido/ Jodo related infection/ transmission over the last 14 months within AUSKF. as of June 2, 2021.** The vaccination program seems to be working well in the USA. Many dojos are now re-opening the practice in AUSKF. Please continue to take proper precaution, remember to stay safe, protect yourselves and others. If any doubt, error on safe side. We plan to conduct this survey again in July, and hopefully we do not need to do this too much longer. Your response is the most reliable and precious source of information to guide our kendo community. Please continue to participate.

Sincerely,

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