

AUSKF Covid Survey July 2021 (July 28 – August 9, 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 96 Dojos: (Out 243 dojos in AUSKF)

Reference: we had 90 in May, 113 in March, 96 in January, and 117 in November, 2020 responded.

Q1: Is your dojo physically meeting for practice? Current, (5/21, 3/21, 1/2021, 11/2020)

No: 16, (20, 32, ,)

Zoom only: 6, (17, 36, ,)

Yes, Outdoor only : 8, (14, 11, 3, 6) 8.3%

Yes, Indoor: 66, (39, 34, 19, 40) 68.8%

Q2: Practice with Bogu?

No: 7, (49, 85, ,)

Yes: 60 (41, 28, ,) 62.5%

No mask or shield: 12 (9, , ,) 12.5%

With mask and/or shield : 48 (32, , ,) 50%

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

No: 27 (37, 77, ,) 28%

Yes, but no mask nor shield: 22 (16, 1, ,) 23%

Yes, with mask / shield : 45 (35, 35, ,) 47%

Q4: Are you facing each other during practice?

No: 28, (43, 78, ,) 29.2%

Yes, without mask/ shield: 19 (12, 1, ,) 19.8%

Yes, with mask/ shield: 48 (33, 34, ,) 50%

Q5: Dojo member contracted Covid-19?

0: 65 (63, 86, ,)

1 case: 14 dojos

2 cases: 8 dojos

5 cases: 2 dojos

10 cases: 1 dojo

Total cases 50 Dojos 25

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

Current, (5/2021, 3/2021, 1/2021, 11/2020)

1 (0, 0, 0, 1 dojo 8 members in March 2020)

Q8: Number of members

1,533

Q 9: How many members were vaccinated? (not distinguishing once or twice)

Current, (5/21, 3/21, 1/21, 11/20)

1049 / 1533 (68.4%) (166/ 226 (73.5%)), 216 / 679 = 31.8 %, 44, 0).

Q 10: Using guideline?

No 11

Partially yes 25

Yes 56

Q 12: Using the questionnaire?

No 26

Yes 44

Yes, but modified 21

Discussion

The number of responses from dojo slightly increased to 96 from the survey in May (90) .

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. We saw improvement since late April, probably due to accelerated vaccination program in the USA.

Accordingly, almost half of AUSKF dojos started practice since this spring, now around 70%, and most of them are using the precaution recommended by our guideline. (84%)

The new delta variant reported from India is now uprising, and we are seeing increasing number of cases since July.

The Covid-19 cases with (+) test remains around 50. (54 in May, 47 in March, 19 in January, and 51 in November)

Kendo related covid-19 transmission declined from 8 (In March 2020) to 0 in January survey, and **remains 0 in May 2021. We now have 1 case related to kendo activity.**

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 1,049 / 1,533 (68.4%) members in this survey. It was 166/ 226 members (73%) in May, 2021, and 216/679 (31.8%) in March, 2021.**

As of August 10, 2021, across the nation, in the USA, 58.9% of the general population (all age) has received at least the first dose of vaccine, and 50.3% have completed the full vaccination. (In June 10, 2021, it was 51.9% and 42.6%) 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, but it seems to have slowed down since June.

Within the AUSKF kendo community, out of those dojos that responded to our survey, **68% have already received at least one dose of vaccine.**

So far, both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are showing very promising results. Over 90% effective, and very small number of serious side effects. Delta variant seems to have higher rate of transmission, but the vaccine seems to reduce the risk of severe illness significantly.

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. Many hospitals, governments, and airline industries are making it mandatory to receive vaccination now for good reason.

Overall, we would like to thank you again for taking proper precaution in mitigating the risk of pandemic. **Kendo / Iaido/ Jodo related infection/ transmission rate remains very low. 8 cases from socializing in March 2020, and one new case reported with this current survey.**

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 September, and hopefully we do not need to do this too much longer.

We also attach the copies of all the comments received from the current survey. Please see the addendum below. They elaborate on how each dojo are handling the current situation.

Your response is the most reliable and precious source of information to guide our kendo community. Please continue to participate.

Sincerely,

Yoshiteru Tagawa

President, AUSKF

Michio Kajitani

VP P&E, AUSKF

Addendum: Comments received on survey July 2021

We were just getting back to normal practice for about a month when the delta variant shut us down

Vaccinated only practices

Our University is no longer requiring masks at this time for indoor activities if you have been vaccinated. We cannot ask anyone if they are vaccinated though so practices have been small. 2 - 3 people max.

We hope to begin in person practices again first week of September, however that will depend on ###University policy as well as AUSKF guidelines.

Our practice space has an exhaust fan running 100% of the time and negative air pressure which pull air out of the room constantly. It is also around 85 to 90 degrees and has UVC sanitizing lights in the return air ducts. It is where we practice hot yoga, where we have not had any spreader events since June 2020 when we reopened during COVID.

We are conducting practice almost as normal, but are still not doing tsubazeriai at all.

All members attending practice must be fully vaccinated. We currently have 38 members registered to our dojo.

Yes. We are also concerned about spread of new variants Corvid. We are monitor closely and measuring current situation.

Practices have been on hold since 2020. We do not know how many are vaccinated or how many members have contracted COVID.

Our Kendo program is part of a larger Martial arts school with 252 members. We have a sign on the front door that says if you are Unvaccinated, please wear a mask. We do not require proof of vaccination so we don't know how many are vaccinated. We do have adults who continue to practice with a mask on and some who do not. All children in our building wear masks. We have continued to use the recommended guidelines from our state.

just wonder if there is any update on the guideline.

We reopened with limited practice since beginning June. Attendance is mixed, but consistently around 4-8 people. We have been collecting proof of vaccination and have them for 21 people so far. There have been some interest from new beginners, and we are informing them of our current vaccination requirements. Although in LA County cases are on the rise, we are still practicing (with masks on), with a close eye on the situation, with possibility of temporarily pausing kendo again.

As a physician and surgeon I strongly believe that doing kendo with a mask on is extremely dangerous. If students are vaccinated then they should be able to practice without a mask. I strongly feel we should only allow people whom have been vaccinated to participate in kendo.

The Buddhist Church where we practice is closed.

We are a small group that has all proven that they've been fully vaccinated. We've also been diligent with wearing masks while in the dojo.

we take temperature of all prior to practice, many are vaccinated, we have a rule that no two unvaccinated practice together, everyone masked always, low kiai, reduced to no tsubazeriai
All members are immune from exposure or vaccinated

Protocols lifted by New York State

We requested not to join the practice if you have the symptoms on the list.

we have air ventilating equipment with all doors and windows open to fresh outside air.

All members are screened and required to have the vaccination prior to returning to the dojo.

This includes the 2 week incubation time post vaccine to take effect. Unvaccinated individuals are not allowed to practice at our dojo

We are planning to resume our practice in August.

Plan to start in-person middle of August with printed guidelines to be followed

We have outdoor kata scheduled this coming weekend, which will be our first.

Thank you for all of your efforts!

We just started practicing full bogu last week. Mask required, shield(s) optional.
The city of Houston will not be allowed to practice indoor sport activities

Great Site!