

AUSKF Covid Survey March 2021 (March 29 - April 5, 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 113 Dojos: (roughly 679 members)

Reference: we had 96 dojos (1/2021), and 117 (11/2020) responded in the past, out of approximately 243 dojos in AUSKF.

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

No: 32

Zoom only: 36

Yes, Outdoor only : 11 (3, 6)

Yes, Indoor: 34 (19, 40)

Q2: Practice with Bogu?

No 85

Yes 28

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

No 77

Yes, but no mask nor shield: 1

Yes, with mask / shield :35

Q4: Are you facing each other during practice?

No: 78

Yes, without mask/ shield: 1

Yes, with mask/ shield: 34

Q5: Any dojo member contracted Covid-19

No 86

Probably yes, but no test: 1

Yes, with positive test, no or mild Sx: 24 (**42** members)

Yes, and hospitalized: 2 dojo, (Total 4 members)

Current, (1/2021, 11/2020)

27 dojos/ 113 = 23.9% (13, 17)

47 members / 679 = 6.9 %. (19, 51)

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

Current, (1/2021, 11/2020)

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

Q 12: How many members were vaccinated?

Current, (1/2021, 11/2020)

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

(ref: USA 107 Mil/ 332 Mil = 32.2%, 62.4 Mil fully vaccinated = 18.8%) 70% required for herd immunity)

Q 14: Kiai?

N/A 60

No 11

Yes, full voice 42

Q15: Using Guideline?

Current, (1/2021, 11/2020)

No: 28

Partially yes: 13

Yes: 67 (42, 73)

No answer: 5

Q 17: Using Questionnaire?

Current, (1/2021, 11/2020)

No 35

Yes: 53 (37, 60)

Yes, modified: 18

No answer: 7

Q 19: Comments

Want to see the result of our survey. (Sent out to each federation presidents)

Mandating Vaccine to return to practice? - Up to each dojo, venue?

Requesting suggestion for those who do not want to be vaccinated. - Show the data.
Don't force them.

Discussion

The number of responses from dojo slightly improved to 113 from 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, while the previous survey was conducted in January. Accordingly, majority of our members refrained from physically meeting for kendo practice at the time, now we see recovery of daily activities as well as kendo in March. However, new Covid cases are on the rise in the east coast again, and Europe is already in the fourth wave.

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

Kendo related covid-19 transmission declined from 7 (In March 2020) to 0 in January, and **remains 0 in March 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. **So far 216 of AUSKF members have received vaccine, out of 679 included in this survey. (31.8%).** It was 44 in January.

Across the nation, in the USA, 32% of the general population has received at least the first dose of vaccine, and 18% have completed the full vaccination. In general, to establish 'herd immunity', 70% of the population need to have full immunization/ acquired immunity. We are still far from there, but 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). 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 12 months within AUSKF. as of April 10, 2021.** However, over the last couple of weeks, we are seeing number of new Covid cases increasing again in the east coast. Europe is already in the 4th wave. What will happen in the next 2-3 months in the US is yet to be seen. We hope that the accelerated vaccination program will change the tide. Please continue to take proper precaution, remember to stay safe, protect yourselves and others. We plan to continue this survey in May and July. Your response is the most reliable and precious source of information to guide our kendo community. Please be encouraged to participate.

Sincerely,

Yoshiteru Tagawa

President, AUSKF

Michio Kajitani

VP P&E, AUSKF