

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

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Enhanced COVID-19 protocols for 2022

COVID-19 vaccination or negative test within 72 hours of entry to MTFC

Metro Tacoma Fencing Club will be adding an important enhanced COVID-19 protocol starting 1 January 2022 to be more consistent with USA Fencing national requirements (starting 1 January 2022) as well as requirements implemented by every other Western Washington Division (WWD) fencing club (rules went into effect 25 October 2021). We will need to continue all the current COVID-19 protocols including face masks covering nose and mouth while inside, sanitizing, symptom screening prior to participation, temperature checks, and social distancing. In addition, entry of everyone 12 years old and over inside our facility will require *either* a completed COVID-19 vaccine series *or* show a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of entry to our facility. This includes all fencers and visitors 12 years old or over for every class and open fencing session. The hope is that these additional protocols can further reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection or spread while participating in fencing.

Additional updates will be posted on our club website www.tacomafencing.com under *Resources*.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why is Metro Tacoma Fencing Club implementing this change? The board in consultation with the coaches wanted to put into place measures that can enhance the safety to all our members and staff in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and continued community spread. In the last two months we have had four fencers report a positive test after being at our facility which puts all our fencers, their families, our coaches, and their families at increased risk for COVID-19 infection. Starting 1 January 2022 USA Fencing is requiring all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators to be “fully and demonstrably vaccinated against COVID-19” to attend or participate in [USA Fencing national events](#). We are currently the only fencing club in the Western Washington Division (WWD) that does not require *either* a completed COVID-19 vaccine series *or* show a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours for entry.

If I have a fencer under the age of 12 what does this mean? At this time there will be no changes to the current COVID-19 protocols for children under 12 years old. We plan to follow policies adopted by the Western Washington Division (WWD) fencing clubs as well as USA Fencing, and their recommendations may change depending on the course of the pandemic and other factors.

If I have an unvaccinated fencer who is 12 years old or older what does that mean? One option is to have a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of each class. Another option is to complete a COVID-19 vaccine series.

If my fencer can't be vaccinated for religious or medical reasons, is there a waiver option? Since the purpose of this enhanced COVID-19 protocol is to help reduce the risk of transmission from an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic COVID-19-infected individual to other members of our fencing community, the alternative to vaccination is a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of participation.

If I choose to have my fencer tested instead of vaccinated, will a once weekly testing suffice? For fencers wishing to have testing rather than vaccination, the requirement is a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of each class attended. Therefore, if you have a class Monday and Wednesday then it is theoretically possible to test negative right before the Monday class which would still be within the 72-hour window for the Wednesday class. If your fencer has classes scheduled Monday and Thursday, then twice weekly testing would be needed since it is not possible to have the test fall within 72 hours by the second class.

My fencer is vaccinated or under 12 years old but I'm not. Am I still allowed in the club to watch lessons? We will need to continue all the current COVID-19 protocols including face masks covering nose and mouth while inside, sanitizing, symptom screening prior to entry, and social distancing. In addition, entry of everyone 12 years old and over inside our facility will require *either* a completed COVID-19 vaccine series *or* show a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of entry to our facility. Please do not come inside if you are feeling unwell. If you choose to remain outside, there are large windows from which you can observe the fencing. Please bring your own chair and something warm as it does get chilly in the winter. The area immediately outside the windows is protected from the rain.

I'm not vaccinated but want to attend open fencing. Is that ok? Entry for everyone 12 years old and over inside our facility will require *either* a completed COVID-19 vaccine series *or* show a negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of entry to our facility which includes open fencing. We welcome you with your negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test) within 72 hours of open fencing.

Can I use the rapid test rather than the PCR test? We are following the King County rules that apply to all the other Western Washington Division (WWD) fencing clubs requiring a negative PCR test or a negative antigen (rapid) test *provided by a testing provider* within 72 hours of entry. We are unable to accept test result from home rapid tests. We are not a testing provider.

What if I am having trouble finding a testing site? There are many free or low-cost testing sites available. Here is a link from [Health and Human Services](#) as well as a link from the [Washington State Department of Health](#) for some resources.

How can I submit proof of vaccination? If you are willing to email the club at info@tacomafencing.com we can update our records of vaccination to facilitate check-in for your fencer.

May I submit proof of vaccination if my child is under 12 years old? Please feel free to submit verification of vaccination for your child if you wish, and we would be happy to update our records. It is always reassuring to know that our members have less risk of contracting this highly contagious disease and thus less likely to spread it to our other members.

How do I submit proof of negative COVID-19 test (from a testing provider but not an at-home test)? Please bring proof of a negative COVID-19 test results done within 72 hours to show to the coach at check in during every screening.

What does it mean to be fully vaccinated? We are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definition of fully vaccinated which currently is defined as: 2 weeks after a second dose of a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna vaccines) or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

Can't vaccinated individuals get break-through COVID-19? Yes. The risk is never zero, but those who are fully vaccinated are [less likely to get the virus and transmit the virus](#) than those who are not. Those who are less likely to harbor COVID-19 or transmit this virus put our community at lower risk for spread within the club.

Can't I still have COVID-19 with a negative test? Yes. The [sensitivity of a PCR test with a good specimen can be up to 97%](#) which does leave a 3% false-negative risk. But the risk to our community for someone entering our facility with a negative COVID-19 test is lower than for someone with unknown status.

Are you worried about the omicron variant? Yes very much so. We will be closely following the guidance and direction from the Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC), Washington State Department of Health, Pierce County Health Department, USA Fencing, and the other clubs in the Western Washington Division (WWD).

Updated 1 January 2022