



## EHMA's Return to In Person, Physically Distanced Training

This Thursday, 10 June 2021, Edmonton Historical Martial Arts will be resuming in person training. This decision was made with the coming of phase 2 of Alberta's provincial reopening plan, the updates to the public health guidelines and restrictions from AHS, and EHMA's confidence in its ability to keep students safe.

EHMA's top priority is always the safety of our students and this needs to be properly balanced with our wish to train our students in the art of fencing as effectively as possible. Throughout the Covid pandemic, we have done our utmost to protect students by adhering to all public health guidelines, requirements, and restrictions while also keeping up to date with the best methods of Covid prevention and control. When we have felt necessary we have exercised greater caution than what is seen in guidelines. This commitment remains unchanged with our return to in person training here.

Stage 2 of Alberta's reopening, and the increasing uptake in vaccination in the Albertan population, provides us with an opportunity to reintroduce sparring and contact drills to our training at a future date. These are highly valuable training tools and we must ensure they are reintroduced in a safe format.

To that end, EHMA will be using a two week observation and assessment period in between the beginning of in person training and the resumption of sparring as a permitted training activity. This means that while in person training will resume on 10 June, it will be done in a physically distanced format. If Covid conditions permit, sparring will be allowed to resume on 1 July.

In order to permit sparring within the club while mitigating the risks of Covid, we will be reforming sparring cohorts as we did in the fall of 2020. We define a sparring cohort as a group of up to three people within the club who are permitted to spar and do contact drills with each other. Sparring and contact will not be allowed in between cohorts until further notice.

Our expectation is that each prospective member of a cohort will have received at least one dose of any Health Canada approved Covid vaccine prior to entering a sparring cohort. Your vaccination helps ensure both your safety and the safety of your peers while training at EHMA.

We will not be asking for physical proof of vaccination. Honour and integrity are among our highest values at EHMA, and we believe in trusting the word of our members in good faith.

If you are medically unable to receive a vaccination, or have any situation which would prevent you from being vaccinated we are prepared to provide reasonable accommodations for your continued learning and participation at EHMA events, please contact the Board to discuss these matters if you have a concern.



The EHMA Board will continue to monitor the Covid situation in Alberta on a weekly basis. Our policies can change; if the situation merits increased controls or a more cautious approach, we are prepared to do so even without specific direction from the provincial government or public health authorities. If you have any questions about our Covid safety policies, please contact the Board and we can discuss the matter further.

We look forward to training with all our students in person once again.

Respectfully,

The Edmonton Historical Martial Arts Board

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