

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

8629 South Tacoma Way
Lakewood, WA 98499
253-584-1986

Western Washington Division
www.tacomafencing.com
info@tacomafencing.com



12 March 2020

Dear Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Family,

I would like to ask for your patience, continued support, and understanding as Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) navigates the best path forward over the coming days and perhaps weeks in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are closed to all classes and lessons effective immediately with the hope of helping to reduce the spread of this virus to our members, their extended families, and those we care about most—some of whom are more vulnerable due to age or underlying medical conditions.

We are not alone in trying to protect the health of our community and to do what we can to slow down the spread of this virus. Closure of colleges around the country, cancellation of NCAA championships, postponement of international fencing events in an Olympic qualifying year, rescheduling to an undetermined date for the March North American Cup (NAC), and finally today the order by Governor Jay Inslee to close all K-12 schools in Pierce County until April 27 led the board to vote today that we need to be proactive for our members and coaches. I believe that this is the right decision however hard it was to make.

Most of our members are youth who seem to be less at risk for the more devastating complications of COVID-19 than older individuals particularly those with underlying medical conditions. As a physician, I get updates on this pandemic multiple times a day, and the biggest public health concern is the quick spread to those who would be most impacted. We must learn from the experience in China and Italy where their health care system was overwhelmed with a surge of infection and critically ill patients. They simply did not have enough life saving equipment all at once to help everyone who needed it. By enacting social distancing—minimizing contact and viral spread between individuals—we can reduce the spread and impact of this virus on our friends and family. This is why I think closing our club today was the right decision.

By temporarily closing our club for the health and safety of our extended community, I hope we reopen with a group of eager fencers who along with their families have been able to stay healthy and who are hungry to start practicing and enjoying the sport of fencing again.

Thank you for your understanding and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toby Lee".

Toby Lee, MD
President of the board of Directors
Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC)