

# Educational Material for Parents and Students (Content Meets MDCH Requirements)

Sources: Michigan Department of Community Health, CDC and the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE)

## UNDERSTANDING CONCUSSION

### Some Common Symptoms

Headache	Balance Problems	Sensitive to Noise	Poor Concentration	Not "Feeling Right"
Pressure in the Head	Double Vision	Sluggishness	Memory Problems	Feeling Irritable
Nausea/Vomiting	Blurry Vision	Haziness	Confusion	Slow Reaction Time
Dizziness	Sensitive to Light	Fogginess	"Feeling Down"	Sleep Problems
		Grogginess		

### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A **concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury** that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a fall, bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. A concussion can be caused by a shaking, spinning or a sudden stopping and starting of the head. Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. A concussion can happen even if you haven't been knocked out.

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussions can show up right after the injury or may not appear to be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If the student reports any symptoms of a concussion, or if you notice symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away. A student who may have had a concussion should not return to play on the day of the injury and until a health care professional says they are OK to return to play.

### IF YOU SUSPECT A CONCUSSION:

- 1. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY** – A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for the student to return to regular activities, including sports. Don't hide it, report it. Ignoring symptoms and trying to "tough it out" often makes it worse.
- 2. KEEP YOUR STUDENT OUT OF PLAY** – Concussions take time to heal. Don't let the student return to play the day of injury and until a health care professional says it's OK. A student who returns to play too soon, while the brain is still healing, risks a greater chance of having a second concussion. Repeat or second concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting the student for a lifetime. It is better to miss one game than the whole season.
- 3. TELL THE SCHOOL ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION** – Schools should know if a student had a previous concussion. A student's school may not know about a concussion received in another sport or activity unless you notify them.

### SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Moves clumsily
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Forgets an instruction
- Answers questions slowly

### CONCUSSION DANGER SIGNS:

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot may form on the brain in a person with a concussion and crowd the brain against the skull. A student should receive immediate medical attention if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body s/he exhibits any of the following danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Has unusual behavior
- Is drowsy or cannot be awakened
- Slurred speech
- Loses consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.)
- A headache that gets worse
- Convulsions or seizures
- Cannot recognize people/places
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Becomes increasingly confused, restless or agitated

### HOW TO RESPOND TO A REPORT OF A CONCUSSION:

If a student reports one or more symptoms of a concussion after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, s/he should be kept out of athletic play the day of the injury. The student should only return to play with permission from a health care professional experienced in evaluating for concussion. During recovery, exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration (such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games) may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse. Students who return to school after a concussion may need to spend fewer hours at school, take rests breaks, be given extra help and time, spend less time reading, writing or on a computer.

**Parents and Students Must Sign and Return the Educational Material Acknowledgement Form**

# CONCUSSION AWARENESS

## EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

By my name and signature below, I acknowledge in accordance with Public Acts 342 and 343 of 2012 that I have received and reviewed the Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents and/or the Concussion Fact Sheet for Athletes provided by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return this signed form to the sponsoring organization that must keep on file for the duration of participation or age 18.

Participants and parents please review and keep the educational materials available for future reference.