



Dec. 11, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Winnipeg School Division (WSD), in partnership with Pan Am Concussion Program, Sport Manitoba, and the Sport Medicine and Science Council, has developed a comprehensive concussion protocol for schools. Concussions are a public health issue that can affect children and adolescents involved in sport and non-sport related school activities. WSD believes it is important for all of our schools to have a plan in place that will help recognize and manage these types of injuries when they happen. Please visit the winnipeg1.ca/concussion website to read the full protocol (google translate is available on this website).

Childhood and adolescence is a time when the brain is undergoing development and may be more vulnerable to head trauma. Therefore, it is important that all students with a suspected concussion be immediately removed from the activity they are participating in and referred to a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant for medical assessment.

The WSD Concussion Protocol addresses three important areas:

1. All school and sport stakeholders including students, parents, teachers and coaches must have a fundamental awareness about the signs and symptoms of concussion and be aware of their roles and responsibilities in instances when a student is suspected of having sustained a concussion.
2. All students with a suspected concussion must be immediately removed from the activity they are participating in and referred to a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant for medical assessment.
3. All students with a suspected or diagnosed concussion must undergo proper medical management and receive written medical clearance prior to returning to activities that may pose any risk of head injury.

Please review the attached "Pre-season Concussion Education Sheet". In the event that your child is injured during a school sport or activity, and has a suspected concussion, you will be provided with a Medical Assessment letter from the school which must be signed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant and returned to the school. The Medical Assessment letter provides the school with information from a medical professional whether or not your child has a concussion, and if so, directs the school to begin Concussion Management for your child. At the end of the Concussion Management period, the school will provide you with a Medical Clearance letter that must be signed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant and returned to the school before your child can return to regular school activities.

If you have questions about the WSD Concussion Protocol, please visit our website at winnipeg1.ca/concussion or contact your school.