

Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU #9)
CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your student reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:

- Headaches
- “Pressure in head”
- Nausea or vomiting
- Neck pain
- Balance problems, or dizziness
- Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish or slowed down
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Drowsiness
- Change in sleep patterns
- “Don’t feel right”
- Fatigue or low energy
- Sadness
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Irritability
- More emotional
- Confusion
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetful)
- Repeating the same question/comment
- Amnesia

Signs observed by teammates, parents or coaches include:

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- Confused about assignment
- Forgetful
- Unsure of surroundings
- Moves clumsily or displays in coordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events prior to hit
- Can’t recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Loses consciousness
- Slurred speech

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What can happen if my child keeps on participating with a concussion or returns to soon?

Students with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from activity immediately. Continuing activity with the signs and symptoms of concussion leaves the young student especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the student suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student safety.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion

Any student even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the activity immediately. No student may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the student should continue for several hours. Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU #9) requires the consistent and uniform implementation of well-established return to activity concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years and reflected in Board policy:

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school- sponsored activity including but not limited to competition, practice or scrimmage, must be removed from the activity immediately. . .

No student will be permitted to return to the activity or to participate in any other school- sponsored activity on the day of the suspected concussion.

Any student who is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury shall be prohibited from further participation in school-sponsored activities until he/she has been evaluated and received written medical clearance to do so from a licensed health care provider who is qualified and trained in concussion management.

You should also inform your child’s school if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it’s better to miss one activity than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the student sits out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Concussion>

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date