

# Concussions: The Invisible Injury

## Student and Parent Information Sheet

### FACTS ABOUT CONCUSSIONS ACCORDING TO THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

- An estimated 4 million people under age 19 sustain a head injury annually. Of these approximately 52,000 die and 275,000 are hospitalized.
- An estimated 300,000 sports and recreation related concussions occur each year.
- Students who have had at least one concussion are at increased risk for another concussion.

In New York State in 2009, approximately 50,500 children under the age of 19 visited the emergency room for a traumatic brain injury and of those approximately 3,000 were hospitalized.

### REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

#### Education:

- Each school coach, physical education teacher, nurse, and athletic trainer will have to complete an approved course on concussion management on a biennial basis, starting with the 2012-2013 school year.
  - \* School coaches and physical education teachers must complete the CDC course. ([www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online\\_training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html))
  - \* Uejqqn"pwtugu"cpf"egtklgf"cvjngvke"vtckpgtu"o wuv"eq o rnyvg" the concussion course. (<http://preventingconcussions.org>)

Information: Schools shall follow directives issued by the pupil's

### SYMPTOMS

**Symptoms of a concussion are the result of a temporary change in the brain's function.** In most cases, the symptoms of a concussion generally resolve over a short period of time; however, in some cases, symptoms will last for weeks or longer. Children and adolescents are more susceptible to concussions and take longer than adults to recover.

It is imperative that any student who is suspected of having a concussion is removed from athletic activity (e.g. recess, PE class, sports) and remains out of such activities until evaluated and cleared to return to activity by a physician.

Symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- Decreased or absent memory of events prior to or immediately following the injury
- Confusion or appears dazed
- Headache or head pressure
- Loss of consciousness
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light and/or sound
- Nausea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite
- Irritability, sadness or other changes in personality
- Feeling sluggish, foggy or light-headed
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treating physician.

**STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR  
CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT**

Schools are advised to develop a written concussion manage-