



NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division establishes concussion protocol

Dec. 11, 2017 (Winnipeg, MB) – 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 aimed at educating, preventing and managing concussion.

Concussions are a public health issue that can affect children and adolescents involved in sport and non-sport related school activities. WSD and its partners are addressing the need for all schools to have a plan in place to help optimize the recognition and management of these injuries when they occur.

“Although sports-related concussions receive a lot of media and research attention, we see a significant number of youth who sustain injuries as a result of motor vehicle accidents, assaults, falls and other schoolyard accidents,” says Dr. Michael Ellis, Pan Am Concussion Program. “It’s important that all sport and school stakeholders are educated on the signs and symptoms of concussion and know what to do if a concussion is suspected.”

The [WSD Concussion Protocol](#) addresses the need for fundamental awareness among students, parents, teachers, volunteers and coaches about the signs and symptoms of concussion, as well as their roles and responsibilities when a student is suspected of having sustained a concussion. The protocol also requires that all students with a suspected concussion be immediately removed from the activity they are participating in and are referred to a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant for medical assessment. Students with a suspected or diagnosed concussion are also required to undergo proper medical management and receive written medical clearance prior to returning to school activities with any risk of head injury.

“I am delighted that Pauline Clarke (WSD Chief Superintendent and CEO) and Winnipeg School Division have taken such an important leadership role in developing a standardized concussion protocol for their schools. Because the WSD Concussion Protocol is based on Parachute’s recently published Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport, this will ensure that all students are managed according to national best practice guidelines,” says Dr. Ellis. “It is my sincere hope that all school divisions and schools in Manitoba will develop similar concussion protocols based on this standard.”

“We are so pleased that Winnipeg School Division has built its new concussion protocol based on the Canadian Guideline for Concussion in Sport,” says Steve Podborski, President and CEO of Parachute. “This is exactly what we wanted to happen: that the Guideline become the national standard for all Canadian organizations to adopt.”

A link to the WSD Concussion Protocol is being distributed to all parents/guardians in Winnipeg School Division. Schools will also encourage parents, students and staff to review the Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport Pre-Season Concussion Education sheet at the beginning of each school year.

“WSD appreciates the guidance and assistance from our partners in developing the WSD Concussion Protocol and awareness tools,” says Sherri Rollins, Chair, WSD Board of Trustees. “It’s through the considerable knowledge of these partnerships that we are able to provide this model of education, prevention and concussion management and recovery.”

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student’s potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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