

PARENT'S PATHWAY FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CONCUSSION

FOR USE BY PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS | APPROPRIATE FOR AGES 5 TO 18 YEARS

Every child/youth suspected of a concussion should be seen by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner

Child/youth experiences a hit to the head or to the body (incident)

ARE "RED FLAG" SYMPTOMS PRESENT?

- ▶ Loss of consciousness
- ▶ Seizure or convulsions
- ▶ Uncontrollable vomiting
- ▶ Worsening mental status
- ▶ Neck pain
- ▶ Severe or increasing headache
- ▶ Trouble with vision
- ▶ Slurred speech
- ▶ Very tired or lethargic
- ▶ Weakness or tingling in arms or legs/unsteady/paralysis

YES TO ANY?

GO TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



ARE GENERAL CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS PRESENT?

- ✔ Headache
- ✔ Dizziness
- ✔ Fuzzy or blurry vision
- ✔ Nausea and vomiting
- ✔ Confusion
- ✔ Not thinking clearly
- ✔ Feeling slowed down
- ✔ Sensitivity to light or noise
- ✔ Not able to concentrate or remember
- ✔ Irritable or emotional, mood changes
- ✔ Easily upset or angered
- ✔ Unsteady
- ✔ Changes in sleep or trouble falling asleep
- ✔ Unusual behaviour



NO TO ANY GENERAL SYMPTOMS:

Monitor: continue to watch child for 24 to 48 hours following the incident and visit doctor/nurse practitioner if general concussion symptoms appear. Go to the nearest Emergency Department if **Red Flag** symptoms appear.

YES TO ANY GENERAL SYMPTOMS:

Schedule an appointment with child's Doctor or Nurse Practitioner to discuss the injury incident, symptoms and any **pre-existing factors** below:

- Headaches (e.g. migraines)
- Previous brain injury/concussion
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Learning disabilities
- Mental illness

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675

TTY: 1-866-512-6228

york.ca/concussion

MANAGING YOUR CHILD'S CONCUSSION RECOVERY



Rest is most important for the first 24 to 48 hours. Following the 24 hour period of rest, encourage light activity only as tolerated.

Get informed about concussion injury recovery:

- Check for symptom changes regularly (at least once a day)
- Child will need physical and mental rest with regular naps and sleep
- Limit activities that require concentration like reading, computer use, video gaming, playing musical instruments and driving if applicable

Tell the child's school if a concussion is suspected or diagnosed. School boards have concussion policies to manage students with a concussion. Coaches, trainers and activity leaders outside of school also need to be informed.

Return to Doctor/Nurse Practitioner if general concussion symptoms last more than one to two weeks to reassess and monitor for any signs of ongoing, persistent symptoms. Ask for a referral to a concussion specialist if symptoms last more than four weeks.

Return to learn and play: Children and youth should not return to play or activities until they have successfully returned to school.

If child has pre-existing factor(s):

Be aware that recovery may take longer — weeks to months

Watch for anxiety, depression and risky behaviour and, where necessary, immediately seek referral for mental health services

Monitor closely and take child to a concussion specialist if symptoms last for more than four weeks

BRAIN INJURY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES IN YORK REGION

Emergency Room Departments

TRIAGE, TREATMENT, ADMITTANCE AND REFERRAL

Mackenzie Health:

10 Trench Street, Richmond Hill. Tel: 905-883-1212

Mackenzie Health Urgent Care Centre:

9401 Jane Street, Vaughan Tel: 905-832-4554

Markham-Stouffville Hospital:

381 Church Street, Markham. Tel: 905-472-7000

Southlake Regional Health Centre:

596 Davis Drive, Newmarket. Tel: 905-895-4521

Finding Concussion Programs

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Concussion Clinical Services (18 years and under)

hollandbloorview.ca/programsandservices/Concussioncentre/Concussionservices

Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine

(Sport-related concussion)

casem-acmse.org/physician-directory/find-a-sport-medicine-doctor

Return to Learn/Return to Play

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR MANAGING STUDENTS WITH CONCUSSION

York Region District School Board

yrdsb.ca/Parents/Pages/concussion-Management.aspx

York Catholic District School Board

Policy 212 – Concussions

drive.google.com/file/d/0B0-HXDw45sKAVkNhX1hsVVFVVE/view

Resources

York Region Public Health

Injury prevention resources, including concussion

york.ca/concussion



Holland Bloorview Kids: Concussion Handbook for Parents and Kids

Resource to help with concussion management and recovery

hollandbloorview.ca/programsandservices/Concussioncentre/Concussioneducation/Handbook

Concussion Awareness Training Tool

Online course

cattonline.com

Ontario Government Concussion Web Portal

Resources for students, parents, educators and coaches

ontario.ca/concussions

Parachute

Concussion resources

parachutecanada.org/concussion

Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)

Support for people living with the effects of acquired brain injury (ABI)

obia.ca