

MEDICAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Please inform the school if there has been any exposure to a communicable disease other than the common cold. In addition, please notify the school if your child has any chronic illness or has received a diagnosis from their primary care physician. If you are a working parent, please be sure to have a backup plan for your child if he or she is sick. We do not have the facilities to care for a sick child for an extended period of time

**If you believe that your child should stay indoors due to an illness,
please keep your child home until he or she feels well enough to participate in all school activities.**

CONCUSSION RESPONSE:

What is a Concussion? A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury—or TBI— caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

Concussion Management Team: The Hockessin Montessori School is committed to reducing the risk of head injuries in our school setting and during our school-sponsored events. The Faculty, Staff, and Students of HMS work as a united front to recognize and address potential concussion-related scenarios. Each faculty member receives annual training on recognizing the symptoms of a concussion and the policies and procedures for dealing with a scenario. Students also receive developmentally appropriate training during their Physical Education Class. The Administrative Team acts as the Concussion Management Team for HMS.

If we suspect that a Student has a Concussion, we will take the following steps:

1. Immediately remove the student from the activity.
2. We will not try to judge the seriousness of the injury ourselves.
3. Inform the student’s parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them the Fact Sheet on Concussion and request that they pick the child up from school.
4. Keep the students out of the activity until the parent arrives.
5. A student shall only return to the activity and possibly to school, with permission from a health care professional, who is experienced in evaluating for concussion.
6. Academic accommodations will be made for any student diagnose with a Concussion.

Concussion Signs and Symptoms - Students who experience one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion.

- **Symptoms Reported by the Student**

Headache or “pressure” in head	Nausea or vomiting	Double or blurry vision
Balance problems or dizziness	Sensitivity to light	Sensitivity to noise
Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy	Concentration or memory problems	
Confusion	Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”	

- **Signs Observed by the Adult**

Appears dazed or stunned	Forgets an instruction	Moves clumsily
Is unsure of surroundings	Answers questions slowly	Brief Loss of consciousness
Can’t recall events prior to hit or fall	Is confused about what they are supposed to be doing	

Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes

What Are Some of the More Serious Danger Signs to Look For? In rare cases, a dangerous collection of blood (hematoma) may form on the brain after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and can squeeze the brain against the skull. **HMS will call 9-1-1 or ensure an student is taken to the emergency department right away if, after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, he or she has one or more of these danger signs:**

- Headache that gets worse and does not go away.
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination.
- Repeated vomiting or nausea, convulsions or seizures (shaking or twitching).
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation.
- Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out). Even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.
- One pupil larger than the other.
- Drowsiness or inability to wake up.