

November 15, 2011

Dear Good People,

I call to your attention one question/answer (ref: #29, below) recently added to the Department of Public Health (DPH) FAQs concussion document.

**#29. If our school is working on our policies but has not completed them by January 1, 2012, will DPH accept an affirmation from a school/school district by January 1, 2012 that we have developed interim policies and expect to submit an additional affirmation after the deadline affirming that our school/school board has adopted a final policy?**

Yes. The Department of Public Health understands that many schools adopted policies in school year 2010-2011. DPH also understands that most schools are hard at work aligning their policies with DPH regulations which became effective in June 2011, and that many schools and districts have been awaiting model program guidance from the Department. DPH plans to post model program guidance by December 15 taking into account exemplary policies that different districts have shared with us.

All schools districts that have adopted policies, whether interim policies or final policies, must submit an affirmation by **January 1, 2012**. If a school district does not have a final policy yet, DPH will accept an affirmation from a school/school district by **January 1, 2012** that indicates that

- (a) the school/school district has *interim policies in place*, and
- (b) that the school will submit an *additional affirmation after the deadline*, no later than **March 1, 2012**, affirming that our school/school board has adopted a final policy in accordance with 105 CMR 201.000

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In addition, you may wish to know that the DPH is sponsoring a third (two were conducted in late August) teleconference to further discuss the nuances of the concussion law and regulations. If you are interested in joining the call, simply utilize the toll free number and "participant code" (below). I realize this call is in conflict with the MIAA Annual Sportsmanship Summit, but it is an opportunity for those without this conflict.

## Teleconference Information

Friday, November 18  
12 noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Conference call in number: 1-888-455-9735  
Participant code: 1076256

With continuing best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,  
DickNeal  
MIAA Executive Director

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