

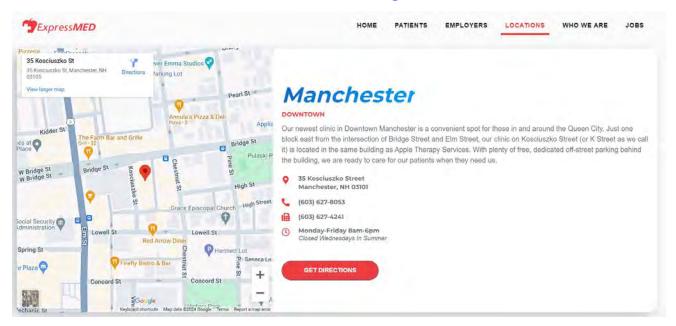
# Preseason Checklist for Safety: Athletes & Parents

# □ GET A SPORTS PHYSICAL

- Make sure you're healthy enough for physical activity!
- Physicals be scheduled completed annually
- o Schedule with your PCP or visit an urgent care facility for a sports physical
- Did you know that ExpressMED partners with Safe Sports Network to provide affordable physicals at the <u>downtown Manchester location</u>?!
  - Call 603-627-8053 to schedule an affordable physical.

#### □ MAINTAIN/IMPROVE CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS

- Trying to jump right into sports without proper training is a recipe for injury.
- If you didn't receive off-season programs from your coaches, begin increasing your physical activity gradually so you can safely prepare to handle the demands of sport.
- If you need support with your physical and mental preparation for sports, **contact us** at 603-627-9728 or <u>dawn@nhmi.net</u>.





## □ COMMUNICATE CONDITIONS/MEDICAL NEEDS

- o Do you have a medical condition like asthma or food allergies?
- Be sure you record all your medical conditions and needs accurately on registration paperwork **and** have a conversation with your coaches and athletic trainer at the start of the season, so everyone knows how to best care for your needs.

## □ FUEL YOURSELF PROPERLY

- Just like a car cannot run without gas, your body cannot perform without energy (food).
  - This is especially true during preseason workouts, when your body's calorie needs increase due to intensified energy demands.
- To play at your best, you need to give your body the best fuel.
- Skip the supplements and choose whole-food sources. Eat whole grains, lean meats, fresh fruits and vegetables. Limit processed foods and simple sugars.
- Find more information at
  - www.usada.org/resources/nutrition
  - http://www.usada.org/resources/nutrition/vitamins-minerals-and-othersupplements
  - http://www.usada.org/substances/supplement-411

## $\hfill\square$ ENSURE YOU ARE HYDRATED

- Good hydration habits are essential to reaching peak performance.
- Plan ahead by practicing good hydration habits before preseason and prioritize staying hydrated throughout the season.
- Good hydration habits include drinking before, during and after exercise.
- Find more information at
  - http://www.usada.org/resources/nutrition/fluids-and-hydration

## □ PRIORITIZE ADEQUATE REST AND HEALTH SLEEP HABITS

- Average adolescents need 10-12 hours of sleep each night.
- Intense workouts require proper rest/sleep in order to recover fully and avoid injury/illness.
- Adequate rest/sleep not only helps avoid injury but can enhance performance!
- o If you haven't heard about good sleep hygiene, you need to!
- Find more information at
  - http://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-tools-tips/healthy-sleep-tips



## □ LEARN ABOUT CONCUSSIONS

- Concussions can occur from a variety of mechanisms and you don't have to lose consciousness to have a concussion!
- Common concussion symptoms include headache, dizziness, fogginess, sensitivity to light/noise or generally not feeling well.
- Don't ignore these symptoms whether it's your own body or a teammate.
- It's important that you bring your concerns to your coach and athletic trainer to avoid situations that can lead to slower recovery.
  - Refer to the <u>Safe Sports Network Head Injury Warning Sheet for more</u> information.

#### **EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- Ensure you have proper fitting clothing, protective equipment, mouth guards, footwear, etc.
- Don't share equipment with teammates; it may not fit properly and could spread contagious skin conditions!
- Practice good hygiene by showering after practices/games and washing/drying equipment between uses.
- Find more information at
  - https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/football-helmet-handout.pdf
  - http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/skin-disease-handout.pdf

#### $\Box \quad \textbf{BE HEAT SAFE}$

- Lack of acclimatization can make the effects of heat on the body much worse.
- Heat acclimatization protocols are put in place by NHIAA and the Safe Sports Network to help athletes meet the demands of warm weather in preseason.
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat illnesses in yourself and your teammates.
- Heed the guidance if your athletic trainer or coach restricts practices/competitions due to dangerous environmental conditions.
- Wear light colored clothing and get cool between sessions, whenever possible.
- Find more information at
  - https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/hydration\_heat\_illness\_handou t.pdf
  - https://koreystringer.institute.uconn.edu/heat-acclimatization/

#### □ CHECK IN WITH YOUR COACHES

- Did you know that Safe Sports Network trains hundreds of coaches in CPR/AED and First Aid annually?
- If you would like more information about CPR/AED or other emergency skills courses, contact Dawn at <u>dawn@nhmi.net</u>