Kenyon College

Cox Health & Counseling Center

Kenyon College Health Center Concussion Policy

**How will a suspected concussion be managed at Kenyon College?**

Any student with a suspected concussion will be evaluated by a licensed medical professional at the earliest possible opportunity. This will include a neurological and motor function assessment. The Physician/Nurse Practitioner will then decide, based on present symptoms and their assessment, if the student needs immediate referral to the Emergency Room. If no immediate referral is necessary, the student will be discharged with care instructions to be given to and followed by a roommate, trusted friend or local caregiver. The student will be followed by the Health Center Practitioner during recovery from the injury.

If the injury occurs when the Health Center is closed, immediate care and evaluation can be performed by Certified Athletic Trainers, Campus Safety, or Emergency Medical Technicians with the College Township Fire Department. If there is a significant injury involving a loss of consciousness or a concern that the injury could be life-threatening or result in permanent disability, campus personnel may insist that the student seek *immediate* evaluation with a medical professional

After-hours resources for students who have sustained a head injury and need monitoring include:

* Trusted friend or roommate who can be responsible for ensuring student safety
* Campus Safety
* Director on Duty
* Nurse practitioner on call (through Campus Safety)
* Parent or relative (if student is able to call parents and travel home for recovery)
* College Township Fire Department personnel

The student will be expected to check in with the Health Center staff on a regular basis during their recovery from a concussion. They will be advised of campus resources to assist them academically. During each appointment, the student will complete a symptom score check list to monitor ongoing symptoms and document progress. If additional resources are required (i.e., neurological consultation), the Health Center will connect student with other professionals.

The following protocol will be followed:

1. After an initial assessment at the Health Center, a notification will be sent to the student’s faculty and faculty advisor by the Dean of Academic Advising and Support.
2. This email will be copied to the student and state that the student is responsible for arranging and meeting with each professor regarding any concerns about academic work.
3. The student must contact and meet with Erin Salva in order to arrange any of the accommodations or assistive technology supports listed below.

Background information on Educational impact of Concussions or TBI for Students

New research shows that any concussion, including a “ding” or “bell-ringer,” is a traumatic brain injury (TBI) that needs to be taken seriously. A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that can impact a student’s ability to learn while symptoms are present and may require individualized academic accommodations. **Once students are ready to return to school, providing academic accommodations can prevent exacerbation of symptoms and lead to a quicker and more successful recovery.**

Accommodations include the following:

* Books on tape or digital text materials
* Access to class notes
* Extended time for tests
* Time allowances for make-up work
* Rest breaks during class or tests

Specific issues to watch for when returning to academic work:

* Poor attention span
* Difficulty concentrating
* Difficulty following directions
* Reduced short-term memory recall
* Delayed processing
* Inability to complete routine tasks
* Easily distracted
* Sensitivity to light/noise
* Irritable or withdrawn

**For further consultation, please contact:**

**Kim Cullers, CNP**

**Email:** cullersk@kenyon.edu

**Title:** Director, Cox Health Center

**Office Location**: 104 W. Scott Lane

**Campus Phone:** (740) 427-5525

**Regarding:** Concussion follow-up and management

**Erin F. Salva**

**Email:** salvae@kenyon.edu

**Title:** Director, Student Accessibility and Support Services

**Office location:** Lower level of Olin Library (beside the Writing Center) **Campus Phone:** (740) 427-5453

**Regarding:** Academic accommodations & support

**Hoi Ning Ngai**

**Email:** ngaih@kenyon.edu

**Title:** Dean of Academic Advising and Support

**Office Location**: Edwards House, Second Floor

**Campus Phone:** (740) 427-5145

**Regarding:** Course and/or semester withdrawal