



**KANAWHA-CHARLESTON
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**Physicians To Talk With ADs, Coaching Staff, Youth League Leaders,
Parents About Recognizing Brain Injuries In Student Athletes**

CHARLESTON, WVA. – A neurosurgeon and an emergency physician will lead a discussion and Q&A session for high school, middle school and youth league volunteers about the importance of recognizing brain injuries in their student athletes.

“Concussion Discussion,” a one-hour breakfast event, is set for Thursday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 a.m. at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center Theater. The meeting is free and open to coaches, staff, athletic directors, youth league leaders and parents from Kanawha and surrounding counties. The event is free but registration is required. Attendees should email info@kceaa.org and include name, email address phone number and team affiliation.

This event is presented by the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, in partnership with the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, the Kanawha County Commission and the City of Charleston. It is the first installment of discussions on the topic of concussions and student athletes. The next session will focus on training for medical providers and emergency medical responders.

Speakers include Dr. Calvin Whaley, D.O., a neurosurgeon, and Dr. Jim Kyle, M.D., an emergency physician. Dr. Steven Eshenaur, D.O., KCHD Health Officer and Executive Director of the health department, will moderate the discussion. Eshenaur is also an emergency physician who has seen a multitude of traumatic brain injuries in student athletes, some with tragic outcomes.

“This is a critical discussion to have as our student teams practice every day and suit up for games every week. Concussions can happen to all of us, of course, but when it is your job to

make physical contact in a game or practice, you certainly increase your chances of injuring your brain,” Eshenaur said. “In some cases, we’ve lost precious students to contact sports. As physicians, we want to make sure everyone knows how to recognize even the mildest concussion and what to do when we suspect it. A refresher from a neurosurgeon and an ER physician is a good idea for parents, too.”

Monica Mason, Executive Director of KCEAA, emphasized the importance of this event.

“We are so pleased to partner with the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department providing important information about concussions to the coaches, athletic directors and parents of our student athletes,” Mason said. “We look forward to our emergency medical responders receiving training on this topic as well in the days to come.”

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