



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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Dear Superintendent:

Massachusetts is in the midst of an opioid epidemic, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has developed educational materials to partner with schools across the state in sharing key information and resources with students, parents and school personnel. Because of the risk of injury and the subsequent need for pain management, student athletes may be at risk for opioid misuse.

Recent legislation in Massachusetts requires that parents, guardians, and other adults in a 6th-12th grade student extracurricular athlete's life such as school nurses, Athletic Directors, coaches and athletic trainers, receive educational materials on the dangers of opioid use and misuse. The educational information in written form must be distributed to students involved in an extracurricular athletic activity prior to the beginning of their athletic seasons.

To that end, the Massachusetts Department of Health with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and Massachusetts Technical Assistance Partnership for Prevention (MassTAPP) have developed a set of four fact sheets for the extracurricular school sports community on prescription opioid misuse prevention entitled:

- *Preventing Prescription Opioid Misuse Among Student Athletes*
- *Injury Management: A Key Component of Prescription Opioid Misuse Prevention*
- *What to Know About Prescription Opioids*
- *Guidance on Communications After a Non-Concussion Sports Injury*

Please share your support for these materials by forwarding this letter to the extracurricular school sports and health-related staff in your district, ideally before the start of the sports season.

The materials can be downloaded from the MassTAPP website <http://masstapp.edc.org/rx-student-athlete>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MB", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Department of Public Health