



## **Sway Testing Information**

The Madison School District aims to reduce the risks associated with concussions through a multidisciplinary, evidence-based approach. Madison School District uses Sway Medical's mobile concussion application to measure balance and cognition before the season starts and during the return to play protocol after an injury has occurred. Sway Medical concussion testing uses the accelerometers and sensors that are built into most mobile devices to measure balance and cognition. This objective data will assist healthcare professionals in making the best decisions for the care of your student-athlete. Madison School District will complete baseline Sway testing for all student-athletes annually. When a concussion is suspected, the baseline assessment is used to compare with all post-injury testing.

What Parents/Guardians need to know:

- The Sway mobile app is compatible with Apple iOS and Android operating systems.
- All PHI data collected during the screening process is de-identified and stored in a HIPAA- and FERPA-compliant cloud. Access to this data is restricted to the Madison School District medical staff, overseen by Zachary Hoffman
- If any technical support is needed for a student's test, a Profile ID code is used to associate with that student to communicate with the Sway Medical Technical team. No name will be associated with their profile.
- Baseline testing takes 20-25 minutes to complete either in person or remotely.
  - Each test will be reviewed by a healthcare provider prior to participation in school activities.
- Baseline testing will be done annually, and post-injury testing will be done as clinically appropriate throughout the recovery process.

Due to firewall and app store restrictions, some countries will not have access to Sway Medical in your app store. If you are not able to download and complete the test, there will be time committed to testing when students arrive at school.

For more information regarding the Madison School District concussion policy or Sway software, please reach out to Zachary Hoffman, AT ([zachary.hoffman@uhhospitals.org](mailto:zachary.hoffman@uhhospitals.org)) or visit: [Sway's Patients, Athletes & Parents FAQ page](#).

Download the SWAY medical app, sign up, then see Zach Hoffman for a pass code to complete the test with him at school.



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Madison School District is currently implementing an innovative program for our student-athletes. This program will assist our team physicians/ athletic trainers in evaluating and treating head injuries (e.g., concussion). To do so, we have acquired a software tool called Sway Medical. Sway is a medical mobile application program that provides a comprehensive balance and cognition exam that is used by many professional, collegiate, and high school sports programs across the country to manage head injuries. If an athlete is believed to have suffered a head injury during competition, Sway is used to help monitor symptoms and track an athlete's recovery.

Student athletes will complete the Sway exam on their mobile device before beginning contact sport practice or competition. The Sway baseline exam involves a balance challenge, and four cognitive tests that measure their reaction time and other cognitive functions. It will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. None of your child's information will be stored on the device. All of the information is deidentified and stored in our HIPAA, FERPA secure cloud server in the United States.

In the event of an injury, we will be able to re-test athletes throughout their recovery period and communicate the results to a local doctor or, to help evaluate the injury. The information gathered can also be shared with your family doctor. The test data will enable these health professionals to determine when return-to-play is appropriate and safe for the injured athlete.

We are excited to implement this program given that it provides us the best available information for managing concussions and preventing potential brain damage that can occur with multiple concussions. The Madison administration, coaching, and athletic training staff are striving to keep your child's health and safety at the forefront of the student athletic experience.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in ensuring the well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Zachary Hoffman, AT  
Senior Athletic Trainer  
University Hospitals  
Madison School District

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Consent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_