



## NEWS ALERT!

December 8, 2009

On Thursday, December 10th, the NFL will begin airing a national public service announcement (PSA) about concussions in sports on CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, as well as on the NFL Network. The PSA describes the importance of recognizing a concussion, taking time to recover, and not returning to play too soon.

As a side note, on December 4th, 2009, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced S. 2840, the "Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act of 2009" or the "ConTACT Act of 2009", which is similar to H.R. 1347, introduced by Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ). Both of these bills call for the establishment and implementation of concussion management guidelines with respect to school-aged children, including standards for student athletes to return to play after a concussion.

CDC has created free tools for youth and high school sports coaches, parents, athletes, and health care professionals that provide important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion. Learn more at: [www.cdc.gov/Concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/Concussion).

This News Alert was prepared by Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy. William A.B. Ditto, MSW, is Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee.

*The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.*