

Springfield Public Schools Asthma Emergency Response Protocol

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide assistance to students experiencing asthma episode symptoms, including wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and/or breathing difficulty.

Equipment and Supplies:

1. Prescribed quick-relief medication (Albuterol, ProAir, Proventil, Ventolin, etc.). Many students have their own inhaler on their person, as allowed by state law. If asthma medication is not on the student, immediately summon school staff members who have access to the medication (student's locker, book bag, etc.). A self-carry form completed by the parent and a copy of the pharmacy order should be on file in the school office if a student is carrying his/her inhaler.
2. All equipment and supplies necessary for administering asthma medications (spacer, nebulizer machine, etc.) provided by the parent
3. Student's Asthma Action Plan (if available)

Procedures:

Step	Condition	Action
1	<p>Asthma Episode If student exhibits any of the following signs such as wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, or difficulty breathing....</p> <p>No quick-relief medicine available</p> <p>Quick-Relief Medication Available If the student has quick-relief medication (inhaler or nebulizer treatment) and the episode is not an emergency.....</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess student for any asthma episode symptoms • Student report of “needing my inhaler” should be given primary weight even in absence of other symptoms. • Call Parent / Guardian • Call School Nurse if not already present • Follow the student's Asthma Action Plan if available • Give / assist with giving prescribed asthma quick-relief medication (with delivery device if available) as authorized by the student's medical orders • Stay with the student and observe for improvement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stay calm, speak softly, encourage student to take deep breaths. b. Seat student comfortably, indoors if possible. Remove outerwear, if present, and loosen clothing if needed. • Do not permit student to lie down or fall asleep

2	<p>Severe Asthma Episode If student has any one or more of the following severe asthma symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very fast or hard breathing • Nasal flaring • Skin retracting / sucking over child's neck, stomach or ribs with breaths • Breathing so hard they cannot walk or speak • Lips or fingernails turn blue 	<p>Do the following in this order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY • ADMINISTER QUICK RELIEF INHALER IF AVAILABLE • CALL SCHOOL NURSE IF NOT ALREADY PRESENT • CALL PARENT GUARDIAN
3	<p>Loss of Consciousness If student appears to lose consciousness or ability to participate in own treatment....</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALL 911, if not already summoned • EVALUATE IF CPR IS NEEDED (look for signs of life, such as breathing)
4	<p>Improvement If symptoms improve following quick-relief medication administration....</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Severe Asthma Episode, monitor student for 15 - 20 minutes before allowing student to return to class and resume activities
5	<p>No Improvement If no improvement within 10 minutes of quick-relief medication administration, if symptoms worsen, or if student develops any one of the following symptoms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Very fast or hard breathing b. Nasal flaring c. Skin retracting / sucking over child's neck, stomach or ribs with breaths d. Breathing so hard they cannot walk or speak e. Lips or fingernail beds turn blue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY • Repeat quick-relief medication 10-20 minutes after first dose or as authorized in student's Asthma Action Plan • Stay with student until medical help arrives or student recovers • Call parent / guardian or direct someone else to call parent / guardian
6	<p>Recording Incidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record all incident information on Medication Administration Record. Nurse will work with parent / guardian to obtain an Asthma Action Plan for the student.

*All staff members should review this protocol. Any staff member who may be likely to assist a student with asthma should review the protocol and contact the school nurse in their building regarding training in the procedure for administering the student's prescribed quick-relief medication.