

## Students

### Administrative Procedure - Asthma Episode Emergency Response Protocol

*This document was prepared by Woodland School District 50 in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education, American Lung Association, Respiratory Health Association, Illinois Asthma Partnership, Chicago Asthma Consortium, and Illinois Association of School Administrators in compliance with Public Act 99-0843.*

\*All staff members should review this protocol. Any staff member who may likely assist a student with asthma should review this protocol and practice with a school nurse for the student's prescribed quick-relief inhaler. Training should be provided by a school nurse assigned to the school once a year or by online asthma training.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide assistance to a student experiencing an asthma episode with symptoms of wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and/or breathing difficulty.

#### **Equipment and Supplies**

1. Prescribed quick-relief medication (Albuterol, ProAir, Proventil, Ventolin, etc.) Students may self-carry their own inhaler, as allowed by state law and authorized by the parent/guardian. If asthma medication is not on the student, immediately summon school staff (school nurse or teacher) members who have access to the medication.
2. All equipment and supplies necessary for administering asthma medication (spacer, nebulizer machine, etc.)
3. Student's Asthma Action Plan

#### **Procedures**

Step	Condition	Action
1	<p><b><u>Asthma Episode</u></b> If a student exhibits any of the following signs such as wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, or verbalizes need for inhaler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assess student for any asthma episode symptoms.</li> <li>● Have student stop activity ie) running, playing.</li> <li>● Student reporting "I need my inhaler" should be taken seriously even in the absence of other symptoms.</li> <li>● Notify school nurse of student's condition regardless of severity of symptoms and report findings (if non-nurse is assisting student).</li> <li>● Stay with student and remain calm.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b><u>Severe Asthma Episode</u></b> If student has <u>any one or more</u> of the following severe asthma episode symptoms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Very fast or hard breathing</li> <li>b. Nasal flaring</li> <li>c. Skin retracting/ sucking with breathing in the child's neck, stomach, or ribs</li> <li>d. Cannot walk or speak due to heavy breathing</li> <li>e. Lips or fingernail beds turn blue or gray</li> </ol>	<p>Do the following in this order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY FIRST.</b></li> <li>● Call the school nurse if not already present.</li> <li>● Ensure school nurse arrives and administers quick-relief medication (If 911 is not present).</li> <li>● Stay with student and remain calm.</li> <li>● Call parent or guardian.</li> </ul>

3	<p><b><u>Loss of Consciousness</u></b>          If student appears to lose consciousness or ability to participate in own treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY FIRST.</i></li> <li>● Call the school nurse if not already present.</li> <li>● Stay with student and remain calm.</li> <li>● Send someone for the AED.</li> <li>● Call the parent or guardian.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b><u>Quick-Relief Medication</u></b>          If student has a quick-relief medication and the episode is not an emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assess respiratory status (Use a peak flow meter if available and part of Asthma Action Plan).</li> <li>● Give or assist with administering prescribed asthma quick-relief medication (with delivery device) as authorized by the student's Asthma Action Plan or medical orders.</li> <li>● Stay with the student and observe for improvement.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stay calm, speak softly, encourage student to take slow deep breaths.</li> <li>- Seat student comfortably indoors if possible. Remove outerwear, if present, and loosen clothing, if needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Do not allow student to lie down or fall asleep.</li> <li>● Accompany student to the school nurse or call school nurse.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b><u>No Quick-Relief Medication</u></b>          If student has no quick- relief medication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY FIRST.</i></li> <li>● Call the school nurse if not already present.</li> <li>● Stay with student and remain calm.</li> <li>● Call the parent or guardian</li> </ul>
6	<p><b><u>Improvement</u></b>          If student improves after quick-relief medication given</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor student for 15-20 minutes then allow student to return to class and resume activities.</li> <li>● Repeat quick-relief medication, every 10-20 minutes, or as authorized in the Asthma Action Plan, until help arrives or breathing improves.</li> <li>● Stay with the student until he/she recovers or parent picks up student.</li> <li>● Call parent or guardian.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b><u>No improvement</u></b>          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"> <li>a. Very fast or hard breathing</li> <li>b. Nasal flaring</li> <li>c. Skin retracting/ sucking with breathing in the child's neck, stomach, or ribs</li> <li>d. Cannot walk or speak due to heavy breathing</li> <li>e. Lips or fingernail beds turn blue or gray</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY FIRST.</i></li> <li>● Call the school nurse if not already present.</li> <li>● Stay with student and remain calm.</li> <li>● Call the parent or guardian</li> </ul>

8	<b><u>Documenting Incidents</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Document assessment of symptoms, interventions, and response to interventions.</li> <li>● Document all incident information according to the procedures of District 50.</li> <li>● All incidents for students are to be documented in Skyward under office visits.</li> <li>● All incidents for staff are to be documented on white staff cards maintained confidential and locked in the Health Office.</li> </ul>
9	<b><u>Encouraging Asthma Action Plan and Quick-Acting Medication</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At least one month prior to the first day of student attendance each school year, the health office will send a notice to parents/guardians by U.S. Mail outlining procedures for dropping off medications.</li> <li>● The Health Office will ask for an asthma action plan and an unexpired quick-acting inhaler in its original container with the child's name label. Availability of a spacer/chamber is encouraged.</li> </ul>

Dated: January 26, 2017