



Model Policy Stock Bronchodilators for School Districts

How to Implement a Model Policy

The American Lung Association has created this model policy to inform development of policies allowing use of stock bronchodilators in schools. The purpose of this model policy is to improve the health and academic outcomes of students with asthma.

The policy below assumes an ideal school setting. However, we recognize not every school or school district will have the same resources and thus may need to revise and customize the policy prior to adoption and implementation. When customizing the policy, school officials are encouraged to examine their school's additional policies related to asthma care ensuring they are in line with best practices, such as those recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

Below are some frequently asked questions when adopting a model policy.

➤ ***What does the blue text mean?***

The blue text within the model policy indicates a place to customize the policy to your school or locality. Please insert the appropriate information related to your school and your policy for the blue text.

➤ ***Do I have to implement the policy word for word?***

No. As mentioned above, the policy is written broadly, but makes some basic assumptions, such as all schools have a full-time school nurse. Given this, the policy should be amended, customized as necessary, to appropriately fit your school and school district's situation and legal framework.

➤ ***Should I have a lawyer and/or other relevant policy advisor review it to be sure it fits with my school district's laws and policies?***

Yes. The model policy is written broadly and cannot take into account every state and local law. Please review the policy before adoption to make sure it is consistent with your state and local laws and regulations.

➤ ***What else do I need to do after adopting the model policy?***

After adopting the model policy, each school or school district is strongly encouraged to develop a "Protocol and Procedures" document. This model policy is broad and does not address specific situations that may arise in a school. The Protocol and Procedures document will govern specific situations in each school or school district and consider differences in resources between schools and school districts. There is additional information on the next page about creating this document. Also, it is highly encouraged that you promote the policy to staff, parent/guardians and students in your community.

➤ ***Is there additional information available to help the students at my school with asthma?***

Yes. The American Lung Association has created numerous resources to help make your school asthma friendly. You can find those resources at Lung.org/afsitoolkit.



Creating a Protocols and Procedures Document

Each school/school district is encouraged to create and adopt a “Protocols and Procedures” document to further clarify the Stock Bronchodilator policy and its use in specific situations to best fit the needs of their school/school district. Below is a list of questions each school/school district may want to address when creating their “Protocols and Procedures.”

Questions

- In the model policy, school personnel must complete the appropriate training to administer the stock bronchodilators to students. What topics must be included in that training? Who will provide the training? Who will oversee, track and monitor the training?
- Should the school implement a system to track and record instances of use of stock bronchodilators? If so, how?
- What is the process for notifying a student’s parent/guardian when the stock bronchodilator is used?
- What is the process for notification or communication with a student’s healthcare provider when the stock bronchodilator is used?
- Is the release of liability already addressed elsewhere in your school’s/ school district’s policies? If it is, this may not need to be addressed in the specific policy of stock bronchodilators.
- What are the procedures for sanitizing the medical devices and device components needed to use the bronchodilator?
- If there is a preference for one delivery method (i.e., nebulizers or inhalers), will that be addressed in your school policy? How will the chosen delivery method impact the implementation of the policy?



Model Policy: Stock Bronchodilators in Schools

The [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT] Board of Education recognizes asthma is a chronic, life-threatening condition. Over 4.6 million children in the United State have asthma, including [INSERT STATE #]¹ in [STATE]. Asthma is a leading cause of hospitalization of children and is responsible for 10.5 million missed school days every year. Students with an asthma diagnosis prescribed a quick-relief inhaler are strongly encouraged to self-carry and administer their medication, if appropriate. Students who are unable to self-carry and self-administer their medication should bring an inhaler to school and follow the alternate procedure outlined by the school nurse, student’s parent/guardian and health care provider.

Under this policy, the school board shall allow the school health program, in coordination with the school administration, to provide bronchodilators to students experiencing an asthma episode or are experiencing respiratory distress.

[Note: For more specific details on protocols and procedures in carrying out this policy, please refer to your school’s Protocols and Procedures document.]

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions have the following meanings:

- 1) “Bronchodilators” mean any medication used for the quick relief of asthma symptoms (i.e., coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing). This type of medication is inhaled orally by a premeasured single dose of albuterol or albuterol sulfate delivered by a nebulizer (compressor device); or by a pressured metered dose inhaler used to dilate the airways during respiratory distress.
- 2) “School Nurse” means a registered nurse (RN) licensed by the state board of nursing, working in the school and meeting any additional state criteria.
- 3) “Asthma” means a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways. It causes recurring periods of coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. For the purpose of this policy, “asthma” also includes “reactive airway disease” commonly referred to as RAD.

¹ Use this link for latest state asthma data from CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_data_states.htm



Conditions for Administering Bronchodilators

Students diagnosed with asthma whose bronchodilator is unavailable or students without a diagnosis of asthma² who are experiencing respiratory distress shall be able to receive an emergency dose from a school-stocked bronchodilator under the following conditions:

- The student is experiencing asthma symptoms, an asthma episode (e.g., asthma attack) or respiratory distress without a diagnosis of asthma.
- [OPTIONAL, if written parental permission is required by state law]:
The student's parent/guardian has provided the required annual written permission for their student to be given the stock bronchodilator. This permission can be included as part of the permission for the student to self-carry asthma medication at school if applicable.
- The [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL], its employees and agents, including an authorized licensed prescriber providing the standing protocol or prescription of a school bronchodilator and any pharmacist or pharmacy filling the prescription, are to incur no liability, with the exception of gross negligence, for the prescription or administration of stock bronchodilators to students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress pursuant to [add citation to state law on stock bronchodilators].
 - Parents/guardians of all students enrolled in [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL] shall sign a form acknowledging this policy.

Administering and Storing Stock Bronchodilator

To administer and store the stock bronchodilator, the following procedures shall be followed:

- Only school nurses and designated personnel that have completed appropriate training, as designated in [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL]'s protocol, shall administer the stock bronchodilator.
 - Each school shall appoint other personnel to administer the stock bronchodilator when the nurse is not available.
 - All who will be administering stock bronchodilators, including the nurse and other designated personnel, are required to complete the appropriate training.³
- The stock bronchodilator shall be stored in a secure and easily accessible, but unlocked location known to the school nurse and all school staff designated to administer the bronchodilator in case of the nurse's absence.

² Volerman A, Lowe AA, Pappalardo AA, et al. Ensuring Access to Albuterol in Schools: From Policy to Implementation. An Official ATS/AANMA/ALA/NASN Policy Statement. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2021;204(5):508-522.

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³ The American Lung Association's [Stock Asthma Medication: Implementation Guidance for Schools](#) is a free, one-hour interactive online course designed for licensed and unlicensed school personnel who administer stock quick-relief asthma medication, and stakeholders seeking to understand and implement relevant legislation, policies, or programs.



- To minimize the spread of disease, a pressurized metered dose inhaler shall be used with a disposable spacer (plastic or cardboard models) one per student and discarded at the end of the school year.
- To minimize the spread of disease, disposable tubing with mask or mouthpieces may be used with nebulizers and discarded after the student is finished using it. Nebulizer machines shall be cleaned and sanitized properly to avoid spreading infection.
- Each school shall implement a reporting system to notify parent/guardians, and if applicable, the student's healthcare provider when the stock bronchodilator has been used by a student. [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL] may implement a recording system to document each time the stock bronchodilator has been used, and by which student.

Obtaining Stock Bronchodilator

The stock bronchodilator and appropriate medical devices needed for proper medication delivery shall be prescribed by:

- An authorized licensed prescriber. [Include the following sentence only if allowed by state law] A provider may prescribe bronchodilators in the name of [INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SCHOOL] to be maintained for use when deemed necessary based on the provisions of this section.
 - All bronchodilators, devices and device components needed for appropriately administering the medication must be dispensed from a licensed pharmacy or manufacturer.
 - Schools shall be allowed, with a valid prescription, to accept donated bronchodilators, devices and device components and seek and apply for grants to obtain funding for purchasing bronchodilators, devices and device components.
- An authorized licensed prescriber may refill any used or expired prescription in the name of [INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL] to be maintained for use when deemed necessary based on the provisions of this section.
- All expired medication shall be discarded in accordance with proper procedure.

Effective Date

This policy shall take effect in full on [INSERT DATE].