

## Asthma Medication at School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has been identified as having a history of asthma. For more information about your child's asthma, please contact your child's health care provider. It is essential that a child with asthma have a quick relief inhaler (e.g., albuterol) available at school in case of an asthma attack. If possible, a child should also have a spacer. The spacer is a tool that makes the inhaler work better. The spacer slows the medicine down so that it can go into the lungs instead of hitting the back of the mouth.

California Education Code 49423 allows a student to carry an inhaler and self-administer (use the asthma medication on his/her own) after the parent/guardian and physician BOTH have completed the appropriate paperwork. The attached **Student Asthma Medication Authorization Form** meets the requirement for this law. If it is **not** appropriate for the child to carry his/her own inhaler, check the box in the form for the inhaler to be kept in the school office.

We ask for your help with the following steps to make sure that your child receives the best possible school asthma management:

1. Fill out and return the attached medication authorization form to the school office. The form needs to be signed by you **and** your child's health care provider.
2. If your child will have his/her medication kept in the school office, personally bring the inhaler in the labeled prescription box (with a spacer, if possible) to the school office. Write the name of your child on the inhaler and the spacer with a permanent marker.
3. If your child will carry and use the medication on his/her own, in consultation with the child's health care provider, teach your child how to use the inhaler. Write the name of your child on the inhaler with a permanent marker.
4. Let your child's teacher(s) and other staff know of your child's asthma, what types of things trigger(s) his/her asthma symptoms, and the need for the medication. It is important to make sure that your child has his/her asthma medication when they leave the school grounds for events or fieldtrips. Do not assume that the school staff (teacher or school administration) will remember to bring the medication.
5. Prepare your child. Discuss with your child how to handle symptoms or triggers in the school setting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

District School Nurse