

Asthma Protocol

-Based on The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation guidelines of New Zealand

Asthma is a respiratory condition resulting in difficulty in breathing, a tight feeling in the chest, a cough, or a wheeze. It is not contagious.

Rationale

- To maintain the wellbeing and safety of all students with asthma both at school and during extracurricular activities.

Introduction

- Asthma is a common condition but its severity varies considerably and people can be affected to greater and lesser degree.
- The major principle underlying a school asthma protocol is immediate access for students to reliever medications.
Ideally every student should carry their own personal inhaler when at school or on school trips. However, if, for whatever reason, this individual inhaler is not available then a system within the school must allow for access to an emergency reliever inhaler provided by the school.

Goals

- To have up to date information systems which identify students with asthma and their prescribed medication.
- To encourage self-responsibility and access at all times to personal prescription inhalers when the need arises.
- To provide an emergency 'back up' plan to ensure access to medication when a student's own inhaler is not available.
- To ensure that teachers and other school staff who have contact with students know about asthma treatment when necessary.
- To keep parents/caregivers informed about asthma at school.

Guidelines

Parents/caregivers are requested to provide information about a student's asthma

- on enrolment
- at annual update of medical records
- when newly diagnosed or when medication is altered.
- Written permission will be provided to administer emergency procedures including administering a school supplied reliever medication via a spacer if the student's own medication is not available
- If a reliever inhaler is administered then a designated adult should be informed as soon as possible.
- Records should be updated and readily accessible

- An up to date asthma emergency kit should be held and maintenance overseen annually by the visiting Public Health nurse
- Asthma education should be provided for staff in order that they can recognize asthma symptoms, know what to do in the event of an asthma attack and know how they can help children with asthma maintain good health at school.
- Parents/caregivers should be informed if their child has an asthma attack at school or if there are concerns that asthma is having an effect on the student's work

Recognition of responsibility

Parents/ Caregivers-should ensure the school has the necessary information and written permission in order to safely manage the child's asthma at school.

Students-should have ready access, at all times, to their own personal asthma treatment.

Staff-recognise asthma symptoms

- ✓ have a plan for responding to asthma attacks in school and extra-curricular activities
- ✓ ensure parents are informed of asthma attacks
- ✓ designated staff (in addition to visiting public health nursing staff) ensure records and asthma emergency kit are kept up to date.