

**Paris Community Unit School District No. 4
(Crestwood School)
Asthma Episode
Emergency Response Protocol**

This document was prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education in collaboration with the 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. It was reviewed by the Paris Community Unit School District No. 4 School Nurse (Terri Crippes) and District Administration (Lorraine Bailey and Danette Young) in January 2017.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide assistance to a student experiencing asthma episode 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.). 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.
2. All equipment and supplies necessary for administering asthma medication (spacer, nebulizer machine, etc.)
3. Student’s Asthma Action Plan (if available)

Procedures

Step	Condition	Action
1	<u>Asthma Episode</u> If student exhibits any of the following signs such as wheezing, coughing, Shortness of breath, chest tightness, or difficulty breathing...	*Assess student for any asthma episode symptoms. *Student report of “ needing my inhaler ” should be given primary weight even in the absence of other symptoms. *Summon or notify school nurse of student’s condition regardless of severity of symptoms and report findings (if non-nurse is assisting student). *Continue to step 4 or step 5.
2	<u>Severe Asthma Episode</u>	Do the following <u>in this order</u> :

If student has any one or more of the following severe asthma episode symptoms:
*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 fingernail beds turn blue

***CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY**
***CALL SCHOOL NURSE IF NOT ALREADY PRESENT**
***CALL PARENT/GUARDIAN**
*Continue to step 5 "Quick-Relief Medication".

3 **Loss of Consciousness**
If student appears to lose consciousness or ability to participate in own treatment...

***Call 911, if not already summoned.**

4 **No Quick-Relief Medication**
If student has no quick-relief medication...assess student for any asthma episode symptoms.

***CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY**
***CALL SCHOOL NURSE IF NOT ALREADY PRESENT**
***CALL PARENT/GUARDIAN**

5 **Quick-Relief Medication**
If student has quick-relief medication and the episode is not an emergency...

*Assess respiratory status using peak flow meter if parents have provided.
*Give/assist with giving prescribed asthma quick-relief medication (with delivery device) as authorized by student's Asthma Action Plan or medical orders.
*Stay with the student and observe for improvement.
 a. Stay calm, speak softly, encourage student to take slow, 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.

6 **Improvement** *Monitor student for 15-20 minutes then allow student to return to class and resume activities.
If student improves after quick-relief medication given... *Repeat quick-relief medication every 10-20 minutes, or as authorized in student’s Asthma Action Plan, until help arrives or student’s breathing improves. Stay with the student until transferred or recovers. Call parent/guardian or direct someone else to contact parent/guardian.

7 **No Improvement** ***CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY**
If no improvement within 10 minutes of quick-relief medication administration, if symptoms worsen, or if student develops any one of the following symptoms:
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

8 **Recording Incidents** *Record all incident information per school or district’s emergency medical response guidelines. If needed, work with parent/guardian to obtain 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 this protocol and practice with a “trainer” for the student’s prescribed quick-relief inhaler. Training should be provided by a Registered Nurse (RN) assigned to the school, if available, or by reviewing the package insert of the student’s quick-relief inhaler medication.