CPS ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY

Chronic disease impacts nearly 25% of CPS students. While asthma is one of the most common chronic conditions in the City of Chicago, it remains one of the most underreported conditions in Chicago Public Schools.

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY BASICS

» Adopted in January 2012
» Applies to all Chicago Public Schools, regardless of enrollment of students with asthma
» Created to prevent asthmatic reactions, encourage daily asthma management, and establish asthma training requirements for school personnel

ACCESSING THE POLICY

» The Asthma Management Policy, as well as all other CPS policies, can be found on the CPS Policy Handbook Website:
  
  http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/Policies.aspx

HOW IS THIS POLICY IMPLEMENTED AND TRACKED AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL?

» The Principal and Assistant Principal are responsible for distributing the policy to all relevant school staff and implementing the policy.
» Principals are encouraged to meet with their nurses to create a plan for policy implementation and compliance.
» The CPS Office of Student Health & Wellness works with Clinical and Related Services, school administrators, and community partners to track training requirement compliance at individual schools.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED FORMS?

» Student Medical Information Form (SMI)
» Consent to Exchange Information and Medical Records
» Physician Verification of Chronic Condition
» Physician Request for Administration (or Self-Administration) of Medication*
» Parent/Guardian Request for Administration (or Self-Administration) of Medication*
» School Nurse or Case Manager can provide the forms.

*Depends on reason for medication use, 504 Plan accommodations, and/or ability of the student to self-administer.
CAN A STUDENT SELF-MANAGE HIS/HER ASTHMA?

CPS students are allowed to self-carry and self-administer their asthma medication as long as the following documentation is on file with the school:

» Parent/Guardian Request for Self-Administration of Asthma Medication Form
» Copy of the medication prescription and the medication’s original box/container

DOES A STUDENT WITH ASTHMA NEED AN ASTHMA ACTION PLAN OR A SECTION 504 PLAN?

» An Asthma Action Plan is encouraged for all students with asthma.
» A 504 Plan must be offered to all students with asthma, but parents can opt out. Parents/Caregivers should speak to their health care provider to determine if a 504 Plan is necessary for their child.
» Opting out of a 504 Plan does not deny the student’s ability to carry or self-administer his/her asthma medication.

IF A STUDENT WITH ASTHMA DOESN’T HAVE A DISABILITY, DOES HE/SHE STILL NEED A 504 PLAN?

» Creating a 504 Plan does not mean that the student has a learning, behavioral, mental, or physical disability.
» Chronic health conditions that may impact learning, such as asthma, allergies, and/or diabetes, are covered under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
» Having a 504 Plan on file will legally protect the student from any discrimination based on his/her condition and will provide your child with any necessary accommodations such as extra water breaks or extra time to get to class.

WHAT IF A STUDENT HAS AN ASTHMA ATTACK BUT HAS NO PLAN ON FILE?

» If a parent/caregiver does not establish a plan for the student, a simple Emergency Asthma Action Plan (EAAP) will be implemented by the school.
» The EAAP states that 911 must be called immediately upon recognition of asthma symptoms.

ARE SCHOOL PERSONNEL ABLE TO HELP A STUDENT MANAGE HIS/HER ASTHMA?

» All school personnel must be trained in asthma management, prevention of symptoms, and emergency response in a school setting every 2 years to maintain policy compliance.
» Parents can facilitate their children getting the proper in-school care by providing all necessary medication and documentation, particularly a detailed Asthma Action Plan and/or 504 Plan.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE?

» Schools should follow the steps outlined by the Asthma Action Plan and/or 504 Plan when a student is having an asthma episode/attack.
» If medication is not working or student does not have access to their medication 911 will be call immediately – Parents will be called after 911.

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

» Fill out all the forms sent home by the school/school nurse.
» Meet with the school administrators, the school nurse, and your child’s primary teacher (if applicable) to ensure they aware of your child’s condition and any special accommodations that are needed.
» Work with the school and your Medical Provider to set up an appropriate action plan for your child.
» Be proactive! Learn your child’s rights and the school’s responsibilities, and stay on top of it!

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact the Office of Student Health and Wellness at oshw@cps.edu