

Bree Pediatric Asthma Workgroup 06.21.22
School Environment Recommendations

Resources:

Asthma Management in Educational Settings (AMES): [Taking Asthma Care to School Guide](#)

WA Department of Health: [Asthma and Schools Webpage](#)

AASA: [Addressing Childhood Asthma in Your Community](#)

CDC: [Strategies for Addressing Asthma in Schools](#)

AAFA: [Asthma Action Plan Templates for Schools/Providers](#)

Key Barriers:

- Information sharing between school nurses and hospital providers – made more complicated by intersection between HIPAA and FERPA
- Following up with parents/caregivers who are not usually available during school hours
- Communicating asthma diagnosis and care plan among parent/caregiver, school-based health centers, other school staff, and child's regular provider. Educating children and parents/caregivers on asthma control plan and properly using medications such as an inhaler
- Environmental exposures on school grounds and exposure to other triggers including respiratory viruses

Draft Recommendations:

School Nurses

- Monitor students for asthma, including students with unusually high absences and multiple office visits for airway obstruction.
- **Better identification of students with asthma and better information about level of severity.**
- Develop a care plan for all students with asthma and update the care plan at least annually. Consider using a standard care plan from the [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#).
- Include education on proper inhaler technique and medication management as part of the asthma care plan
- **Engage with parents/caregivers about strategies for managing asthma**
- Communicate student's care plan with other school staff including all teachers

- Establish clear lines of communication with the student’s regular pediatrician or family medicine physician. Ask the parent/caregivers to complete a release of information form to allow bi-directional communication about the asthma plan.
 - Ask providers to send printed discharge instructions or other forms from the child’s asthma control visits to the school nurse
- Refer to existing resources for managing asthma in the school environment, including the OSPI Asthma Management in Educational Setting (AMES), the AASA Addressing Childhood Asthma, and the CDC Strategies for Assessing Asthma in Schools.
- **Advocate for healthy school environments**

Other School Staff

- Be mindful of student’s health care plan for asthma and understand appropriate activities for students with asthma.
- Provide care as required by the student’s care plan

School Districts

- Follow RCW 28A.210.370:
 - All school districts provide in-service training on asthma for school personnel
 - All school districts adopt policies for asthma rescue
 - Schools allow students to carry and self-administer prescribed medication to treat asthma and severe allergic reactions.
- Adopt strategies to improve indoor air quality to reduce asthma triggers
 - Consider indoor triggers including mold, dust mites, or other allergens
 - Maintain proper classroom air filtration systems to address air pollution and reduce exposure to other respiratory viruses
- **Adopt strategies to address air pollution and outdoor smoke.** Refer to the Department of Health [Outdoor Air Quality and School Activities](#) guide for appropriate activities during times of poor outdoor air quality and smoke.
 - **Consider addressing diesel bus idling**
- **Ensure a tobacco and vape-free campus**
- **Follow AAP guidelines on school nurse staffing – employ at least one school nurse per building.**
- **Involve school nurses in air quality control plans and health plans**

School-Based Health Center Providers:

- **Offer asthma management and education services to students who are enrolled in the school-based health center.**
 - **Refer to the clinical control section for additional recommendations about how to diagnose and manage asthma.**
 - **Offer to administer asthma control medication on-site**
 - **Provide follow-up care to students following an urgent care visit related to asthma**

- Communicate patient's asthma control plan with the patient's school nurse and other providers as necessary. Coordinate logistics of school clinics with school nurses, including clinical hours and staffing as well as scope of practice.
 - Work with school nurses to run risk screening and update asthma care plans

Hospital Providers (any provider seeing an acute admission)

- Communicate asthma control plan and discharge instructions with school nurses.
 - Develop delivery system liability waivers to facilitate information sharing.
 - Ask parents/caregivers to fill out release forms while at their asthma control visit
- Align educational efforts about inhaler use and asthma management with the school-based asthma care plan.
- Provide asthma patients with a prescription for an inhaler and a spacer.

Public Health

- Consider expanding the School-Based Health Center model to provide on-site medical services mindful of the school environment.
- Develop guidance for air quality in schools
- Work with child care centers to develop best practices for managing asthma