

# Asthma Facts



## RSA 200:54: RESCUE INHALERS IN SCHOOLS

**AN ACT** relative to the provision and administration of bronchodilators, spacers, and nebulizers in schools...



### An Overview of the Law:

- An amendment to RSA 200 to include the use of bronchodilators, spacers, and nebulizers in schools.
- Allows school districts to keep a supply of emergency inhalers at school, for student use during an asthma emergency.
- After completion of an asthma training program school personnel can help administer a rescue inhaler.
- Students must have an asthma action plan and parental permission on file.

**ASTHMA ACTION FORM** Healthcare Providers' Orders

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN/HEALTHCARE PROVIDER**

Take: \_\_\_\_\_ 15 to 20 minutes before sports or play.  
Student may:  Self Carry  Self Administer  Has demonstrated to me proficient use (initial) \_\_\_\_\_

**GREEN: WELL PLAN** (My child feels well.)  
• No cough / No wheeze  
• Can play or exercise normally  
• Peak flow number is above \_\_\_\_\_  
• Personal best peak flow is \_\_\_\_\_

**YELLOW: SICK PLAN** (My child does not feel well.)  
• Coughing / Wheezing  
• Tight Chest  
• Shortness of breath  
• Waking up in the night  
• First sign of a cold  
• Peak flow is between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**RED: EMERGENCY PLAN** (My child feels awful.)  
• Breathing is hard and fast  
• Wheezing a lot  
• Can't talk well  
• Rib or neck muscles show when breathing  
• Nostrils open wide when breathing  
• Medicine is not helping

Use these medicines every day to control asthma symptoms. Remember to use spacer with inhaler.

| MEDICINE | DOSE | HOW TO TAKE | WHEN TO TAKE |
|----------|------|-------------|--------------|
|          |      |             |              |
|          |      |             |              |

Continue DAILY MEDICINE and ADD:  
QUICK RELIEF: \_\_\_\_\_ DOSE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOW TO TAKE: \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN TO TAKE: \_\_\_\_\_

If needing quick relief medicine more than every 4 hours or every 4 hours for more than a day, call the doctor at the phone number below. Call doctor/clinic anytime there is no improvement or with any questions! For School Use: Contact Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Take quick relief medicine puffs, or one nebulizer/breathing treatment every 15 minutes until you reach a doctor. Side effects of rescue medication include increased heart rate and jittery feeling. If a doctor cannot be reached, please go to the Emergency Room or CALL 911. For School Use: Follow Emergency Plan and contact parent.

Healthcare Provider (print name): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Healthcare Provider (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Triggers: Cold Air, Weather Change, Mold, Stuffed Animals, Strenuous Exercise, Cigarette Smoke, Strong Odor/Perfume, Pollen, Colds/URI, Animal Fur, Smoke, Dust Mites/Dust, Wood Smoke, Chemicals

I authorize the exchange of medical information about my child's asthma between the physician's office and school nurse/staff.

Parent/Guardian (print name): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Nurse (print name): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Nurse (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_

*This amendment would not have been possible without the support of: the NH School Nurses Association, the American Lung Association, the NH Public Health Association, Sen. Sanborn, Sen. Avard, Sen. Boutin, Sen. Kelly, Sen. Reagan, Sen. Watters, and Sen. Woodburn!*

More than **28,000** NH children with asthma will breathe easier at school as a result of RSA 200:54

# A Breakdown of the Law:

## Prescribing Authority

- School board authorizes the school nurse to maintain the medication supply
- A health care practitioner can prescribe rescue medications to the school district

## Student Eligibility

- Student must have an asthma action plan on file, updated annually
- Student's health provider must produce order form with dosage information & permission to use school stock in an emergency
- Must have written permission from the parent

## Reporting Requirements

- School must produce an annual report summarizing use of meds and equipment
- If emergency school stock was used on a child, schools must notify parents as soon as possible

## School Personnel

- To administer a rescue inhaler, a school employee must be designated by the school nurse and must have completed an asthma training program conducted by the school nurse
- The school nurse will maintain a list of those who have completed the asthma training program
- The asthma training program must consist of:
  - An initial training and an annual refresher course based on training programs by the NH School Nurses Association, the National Association of School Nurses, and the American Lung Assoc.
  - Techniques on how to recognize symptoms of severe respiratory distress
  - Standards and procedures for the storage
  - Administration of the bronchodilator with spacer or nebulizer

## Guidance from Department Of Education

- The NH School Nurses Assoc. and the American Lung Association will provide guidelines for this policy within 5 months from its effective date
  - This includes trainings for unlicensed school personnel (*In Progress*)
- Immunity against liability is built into the legislation provided that any damages are not caused by the willful disregard for the requirement