



Non-Public School Health Program

Medical Standing Order for
Administration of Stock Albuterol
for Respiratory Distress
2026 - 2027 School Year

Purpose: *To be used by the school nurse to respond to respiratory distress. It is not intended to replace an individual's personal Asthma Action Plan. Instead, to be used when an Asthma Action Plan and/or prescribed short-acting bronchodilator inhaler are not available and respiratory distress is observed.*

***Mild to Moderate Respiratory Distress**

Signs of Distress: Coughing, Wheezing, Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing.

Action:

- Never leave the child alone; Restrict physical activity and allow to rest.
- Give **four (4) – six (6) puffs** of inhaled Albuterol with a valved holding chamber (spacer), each 15 – 30 second apart.
- Nurse will obtain vital signs (pulse, respiratory rate, blood pressure, pulse oximetry); repeat every 5 minutes or as needed.
- If NO improvement within 10-15 minutes, **repeat with four (4) – six (6) puffs** of inhaled Albuterol with a valved holding chamber (spacer), each 15 – 30 second apart.
- If NO improvement, **Call 911 and proceed to Severe Respiratory Distress Plan.**

***Severe Respiratory Distress Emergency Protocol**

Signs of Distress: Difficulty speaking, Tightness in chest, Shortness of breath, Coughing, Dusky lips and fingernails, Chest retractions, Use of accessory muscles, Rapid Pulse, and agitation.



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Action:

- **Call 911**
- Activate school's Medical Emergency Response Team
- Immediately **give eight (8) puffs** of inhaled Albuterol with a valved holding chamber (spacer), each 15 – 30 second apart.
- Restrict physical activity and allow to rest. Encourage slow breaths.
- Nurse will obtain vital signs (pulse, respiratory rate, blood pressure, pulse oximetry); repeat every 5 minutes or until EMS arrives.
- **Observe for evidence of Anaphylaxis.** If suspected, give Epinephrine according to Anaphylaxis Protocol.
- If NO improvement and EMS has not arrived in 15 minutes, **repeat with eight (8) puffs** of inhaled Albuterol with a valved holding chamber (spacer), each 15 – 30 second apart.
 - Individual is to be transported by EMS even if symptoms improve. If a student, provide a copies of student's Emergency Form / permission to treat to EMS.
- Continue to monitor vital signs and airway until EMS arrive; if needed start rescue breathing and CPR.
- If the parents/guardian are not present at time of transport to the hospital, a school representative must accompany the student to the hospital.

Monitor for Signs of Improvement

- Individual should demonstrate no shortness of breath, no chest tightness, can talk and walk easily.
- Observe in Health Office under supervision until breathing returns to normal AND parent/guardian arrives to take to seek medical attention.

****See Attached Algorithm as reference**

Ann Milanese MD

March 15, 2026

Ann M. Milanese, MD

Medical Director

Date