

CCSU Stock Bronchodilators Policy

The Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (CCSU) recognizes asthma as a chronic, life threatening condition. Over 4.6 million children in the United State have asthma, including 1 in 12 Vermont children. Asthma is a leading cause of hospitalization of children and is responsible for 10.5 million missed school days every year. Students with an asthma diagnosis prescribed a quick relief inhaler are strongly encouraged to self-carry and administer their medication, if appropriate. Students who are unable to self-carry and self-administer their medication should bring an inhaler to school and follow the alternate procedure outlined by the school nurse, student's parent/guardian and health care provider.

Under this policy, the school board shall allow the school health program, in coordination with the school administration, to provide bronchodilators to students experiencing an asthma episode or that are experiencing respiratory distress.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions have the following meanings:

- 1) "Bronchodilators" mean any medication used for the quick relief of asthma symptoms (i.e., coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing). This type of medication is inhaled orally by a premeasured single dose of albuterol or albuterol sulfate delivered by a nebulizer (compressor device); or by a pressured metered dose inhaler used to dilate the airways during respiratory distress.
- 2) "School Nurse" means a registered nurse (RN) licensed by the state board of nursing, working in the school and meeting any additional state criteria.
- 3) "Asthma" means a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways. It causes recurring periods of coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. For the purpose of this policy, "asthma" also includes "reactive airway disease" commonly referred to as RAD.

Conditions for Administering Bronchodilators

Students diagnosed with asthma whose bronchodilator is unavailable or students without a diagnosis of asthma who are experiencing respiratory distress shall be able to receive an emergency dose from a school-stocked bronchodilator under the following conditions:

- The student is experiencing asthma symptoms, an asthma episode (e.g., asthma attack) or respiratory distress without a diagnosis of asthma.
- The Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, its employees and agents, including an authorized licensed prescriber providing the standing protocol and/or prescription of a school bronchodilator and any pharmacist or pharmacy filling the prescription, are to incur no liability, with the exception of gross negligence, for the prescription or administration of stock bronchodilators to students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress pursuant to [add citation to state law on stock bronchodilators].

Administering and Storing Stock Bronchodilator

To administer and store the stock bronchodilator, the following procedures shall be followed:

- Only school nurses and designated personnel that have completed appropriate training, as designated in CCSU's protocol, shall administer the stock bronchodilator.
- Each school shall appoint other personnel to administer the stock bronchodilator when the nurse is not available.
- All who will be administering stock bronchodilators, including the nurse and other designated personnel, are required to complete the appropriate training.
- The stock bronchodilator shall be stored in a secure and easily accessible, but unlocked location known to the school nurse and all school staff designated to administer the bronchodilator in case of the nurse's absence.
- To minimize the spread of disease, a pressurized metered dose inhaler shall be used with a disposable spacer (plastic or cardboard models) one per student and discarded at the end of the school year.
- Each school shall implement a reporting system to notify parent/guardians, and if applicable, the student's healthcare provider when the stock bronchodilator has been used by a student.
- CCSU Health Offices may implement a recording system to document each time the stock bronchodilator has been used, and by which student.

Obtaining Stock Bronchodilator

The stock bronchodilator and appropriate medical devices needed for proper medication delivery shall be prescribed by:

- An authorized licensed prescriber.
 - All bronchodilators, devices and device components needed for appropriately administering the medication must be dispensed from a licensed pharmacy or manufacturer.
 - Schools shall be allowed, with a valid prescription, to accept donated bronchodilators, devices and device components and seek and apply for grants to obtain funding for purchasing bronchodilators, devices and device components.
- An authorized licensed prescriber may refill any used or expired prescription in the name of CCSU schools to be maintained for use when deemed necessary based on the provisions of this section.
- All expired medication shall be discarded in accordance with proper procedure.

Effective Date This policy shall take effect in full on

References:

American Lung Association. [Model Policy for Schools](#). Accessed May 2024

<i>Date Warned</i>	June 3rd, 2024 - Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Board
<i>Date Adopted</i>	June 17th, 2024 - Adopted by the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Board on behalf of the District boards: Peacham School District, Danville School District, Caledonia Cooperative School District, Twinfield School District and Cabot School District