

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools

REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

In accordance with *Ryan's Law – Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools – 2015*, and *PPM No. 161, Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (February 28, 2018)*, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will adhere to the following guidelines for students diagnosed with asthma.

WHAT IS ASTHMA?

According to the Ontario Lung Association, asthma is a very common chronic (long-term) lung disease that can make it difficult to breathe.

People with asthma have sensitive airways that react to triggers. There are many different types of triggers including: poor air quality, mold, dust, pollen, viral infections, animals, smoke and cold air.

Symptoms of asthma are variable and can include coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. The symptoms can range from mild to severe, *and sometimes could be life threatening.*

For the purposes of this document, the following words have the accompanying definitions:

Emergency Medication: refers to medication that is administered by a staff member to a student at the time of an asthma exacerbation - for example – a reliever inhaler or stand-by medication.

Medication: refers to medications that are prescribed by a health care provider and, by necessity, may be administered to a student, or taken by the student during school hours or school related activities.

Immunity: *The Act to Protect Pupils with Asthma* states that “No action or other proceeding for damages shall be commenced against an employee for an act or omission done or omitted by the employee in good faith in the execution or intended execution of any duty or power under this Act.”

REQUIREMENTS/ RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall:

- identify asthma triggers in classrooms (See appendix 1), common school areas and in planning field trips and implement strategies to reduce the risk of exposure;
- establish a communication plan to share information on asthma to parents/guardians, students, employees and include any other person who has direct contact with a student with asthma (see appendix 4);
- provide asthma education and regular training opportunities on recognizing and preventing asthma triggers, recognizing when symptoms are worsening and managing asthma exacerbations for all employees and others who are in direct contact with students on a regular basis;
- review the asthma policy as part of its regular policy review cycle; and
- include the asthma policy in board policies posted on the board web sites

The Principal (and Staff) Shall:

- ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications;
- establish a process to identify students with asthma at time of registration or following diagnosis and gather necessary asthma related information from the parents/guardians and student;
- develop an individual student asthma management plan (See appendix 4) for each student diagnosed with asthma, based on the recommendations of the student's health care provider (See Appendix 4);
- maintain a file for each student diagnosed with asthma. The file may contain personal medical information, treatment plans and/or other pertinent information about the student, if that information is obtained with the consent of the student or the parent/guardian, in accordance with applicable legislation, including relevant privacy legislation. This file shall also include current emergency contact information.;
- inform school personnel and others who are in direct contact on a regular basis with a student with asthma about the contents of the student's asthma management plan;
- permit a pupil to carry his or her asthma medication if the pupil has his or her parent's or guardian's permission;

- ensure that the Form entitled, *Authorization for the Administration of Prescribed Medication* is completed and filed appropriately at the school as well (See Appendix 11) as per Policy 7003, *Administration of Prescribed Medication to Pupils*.

The Parent Shall:

- ensure that the information in the pupil's file is kept up-to-date with the medication that the pupil is taking;
- ensure that the Form entitled, *Authorization for the Administration of Prescribed Medication* is completed and filed appropriately at the school as well (See Appendix 11) as per Policy 7003, *Administration of Prescribed Medication to Pupils*.

Students with Asthma shall:

Depending on their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical stage of development, and their capacity for self-management, students are expected to actively support the development and implementation of their asthma care plans. When able, students should:

- take responsibility for advocating for their personal safety and well-being that is consistent with their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical stage of development and their capacity for self-management;
- participate in the development of their asthma care plans (See Appendix 4 - Individual Student Asthma Management Plan Form);
- participate in meetings to review their plans of care;
- carry out daily or routine self-management of their medical condition to their full potential, as described in their care plans (e.g., carry their medication and medical supplies; follow school board policies on disposal of medication and medical supplies);
- set goals on an ongoing basis for self-management of their asthma, in conjunction with their parent(s) and health care professional(s);
- communicate with their parent(s) and school staff if they are facing challenges related to their asthma at school;
- wear medical alert identification that they and/or their parent(s) deem appropriate;
- if possible, inform school staff and/or their peers if a medical incident or a medical emergency occurs

LIABILITY

In 2001, the Ontario government passed the Good Samaritan Act to protect individuals from liability with respect to voluntary emergency medical or first-aid services. Subsections 2(1) and (2) of this act state the following with regard to individuals:

- 2. (1) Despite the rules of common law, a person described in subsection (2) who voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation or reward provides the services described in that subsection is not liable for damages that result from the person's negligence in acting or failing to act while providing the services, unless it is established that the damages were caused by the gross negligence of the person.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to,
 - ... (b) an individual ... who provides emergency first aid assistance to a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or other emergency, if the individual provides the assistance at the immediate scene of the accident or emergency.

As well, Ryan's Law includes provisions limiting the liability of individuals who respond to an emergency relating to asthma, as cited below:

- No action for damages shall be instituted respecting any act done in good faith or for any neglect or default in good faith in response to an anaphylactic reaction in accordance with this Act, unless the damages are the result of an employee's gross negligence.

Implementation Supports and Resources for Schools

- **Appendix 1:** *Asthma Triggers and Steps to Reduce Exposure*
- **Appendix 2:** *Managing Asthma Attacks Poster*
- **Appendix 3:** *Creating Asthma Friendly Schools Implementation Flow Chart*
- **Appendix 4:** *Individual Student Asthma Management Plan Form*
- **Appendix 5:** *Management of Asthma — School Board Implementation Tips*
- **Appendix 6:** *Management of Asthma — Administrator Implementation Tips*
- **Appendix 7:** *Management of Asthma — Teacher Implementation Tips*
- **Appendix 8:** *Management of Asthma — Parents/Guardians of Students with Asthma Implementation Tips*
- **Appendix 9:** *Management of Asthma — Student with Asthma Implementation Tips*
- **Appendix 10:** *Additional Asthma Resources for Schools*
- **Appendix 11:** *Aauthorization for the Administration of Prescribed Medication*

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Bill 20, Ryan's Law, 2015 – *Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools*
- Education Act Section 265- Duties of Principal
- Regulation 298 s20 – Duties of Teachers
- HSCDSB Policy 7003 - *Administration of Prescribed Medication to Pupils*
- OPHEA *Creating Asthma Friendly Schools* 2015, <http://www.ophea.net>
- The Lung Association: Ontario <http://www.on.lung.ca/>