**Charnwood-Dunlop School**

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School Policy: **Asthma First Aid Emergency Management Procedure**

Review Date: **2017**

Related Policies and Procedures: **First Aid Policy; First Aid General Procedure; Asthma Management Procedure**

**Asthma Emergency**

An asthma emergency is when symptoms get worse very quickly and severe symptoms are experienced. These symptoms include severe shortness of breath, inability to speak comfortably or blue appearance to the lips. Little or no relief from the reliever inhaler is experienced.

 **Asthma Attack Symptom Severity**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mild attack symptoms** | **Moderate attack symptoms** | **Severe attack symptoms** |
| Still able to talk in sentences | Shortened sentences | Few words per breath |
| Cough | Persistent cough | Persistent cough |
| Soft wheeze | Loud wheeze | Wheeze may be absent |
| Minor difficulty breathing | Difficulty breathing | Gasping for breath or distress |
| Tightness in chest | Tightness in chest | Pale, sweaty, blue lips |
| May complain of stomach ache | May complain of stomach ache | Muscle exertion |

**Asthma First Aid**

When a student requires asthma first aid the procedures on the student’s *Known Medical Conditions Response Plan* or *Asthma Action Plan* should be followed.

In the absence of a *Known Medical Conditions Response Plan* or *Asthma Action Plan* or where the instructions are unclear, follow the standard Asthma First Aid procedure.

**Ambulance Attendance**

An ambulance should be called if:

* the child’s asthma symptoms are severe
* the child’s asthma symptoms continue to worsen
* reliever medication is not available
* the child suddenly stops breathing and it is not known what is causing the breathing difficulty