



ACT
Government
Education

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

Review Date: **2022**

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