



Title: **ENSURING AN ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL**

Adopted: December 1, 2015

Revised:

Authorization: Ryan's Law

POLICY

It is the policy of the Bloorview School Authority that:

- a) all students and staff with a life threatening asthma ailment are entitled to safe and healthy learning and working environments.
- b) the long term goal is that students and staff will develop independence with regard to advocating for their personal situation within the school community.

PRINCIPLES

The Board recognizes that there can be major challenges for students or staff members who have a life-threatening asthma ailment.

This policy applies to anyone suffering from an asthma ailment who has been previously diagnosed by a physician who is responsible for prescribing the appropriate treatment and outlines strategies that reduce the risk of exposure to asthma triggers in the Board's learning and working environments.

The four key categories to consider when providing a safe environment for staff, students and members of the community who have an asthma ailment are:

- information and awareness for the entire school community or workplace;
- avoidance of the conditions that cause asthmatic reactions, wherever possible and acknowledging that it is impossible to ensure the elimination of all such conditions in schools and workplaces;
- emergency response procedures in case of accidental exposure; and
- fostering a safe, caring and supportive environment for those at risk of asthma.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director of Education shall:

- allocate resources to support the Asthma Reactions procedure;
- ensure that the school is meeting the responsibilities of this policy on an annual basis and;
- support the school's implementing a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive environment to those at risk of asthma.

The Principal shall:

- ask parents to inform the school and ensure that the Asthma Reactions form detailing their child's known conditions is complete and updated annually;
- distribute and collect upon registration and then each September annually for returning students, signed authorization for a staff member to administer asthma medication and a signed form for self-administration;
- identify individual students with asthma to all school staff each September;
- ensure that occasional staff are informed of any students at risk for asthma in the classroom/school;
- ensure that parents are informed that, even if consent is given by the parent to let the student self-administer medication, the severity of their child's reaction and/or anxiety may hinder any attempt to do so and as a result, the child may require the assistance of others to administer the medication;
- ensure that for each identified student, an Asthma Reactions Protocol form is completed including necessary signatures, a recent photo of the student and an emergency action plan as agreed upon with the parents;
- maintain open communication with parents, staff and students;
- post in the office, common staff area, and provide the student's teachers with, a photo of the child, symptoms of the child's reaction, and an emergency action plan;
- encourage the student, where age and/or developmentally appropriate to wear a Medic Alert bracelet or necklace;
- when necessary, meet with the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) to discuss:
 - the student's level of responsibility,
 - the consequences of not having the asthma medication close to the child in the event that it is needed, and
 - an alternate plan, that will allow efficient response, if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the child that the medication not be carried by the child;
- provide annual in-service training each September for all school staff in:
 - asthma prevention,
 - recognition and management,
 - proactive communication of safe, caring and supportive environment and
 - Board policy and procedure related to students with asthma;
- invite volunteers and, where possible, occasional teaching staff to the annual in-service training each September;

- request that the entire school community assist in the management of exposure to identified asthma triggers, by periodically communicating identified triggers and avoidance strategies;
- communicate to the entire school community the need for all concerned to share information about those with a known asthma ailment;
- ensure that the Asthma Reactions Protocol form accompany the student to the hospital as long as no delay is caused in the transporting of the student;
- authorize staff, when a student is known to be at risk of an asthma attack, to respond to a perceived attack (with the assurance that they will not be held responsible for any adverse reaction resulting from such response) and have the individual then seek medical attention immediately;
- contact and inform parent (or emergency contact if unable to reach parent) as per the emergency action plan if a student is experiencing an asthma attack and
- provide Student Transportation with a current copy of the transporting board's required documentation regarding medical information, Asthma Reactions Protocol form upon receipt from the parent;
- Include any appropriate information in each student's Medical Risk Binder.

Teachers shall:

- participate in asthma training annually;
- meet with the parents of an identified student, if asked by the parent, to discuss and to record in detail the student's needs, and the school's procedure in case of an emergency and the medical care plan;
- ensure that the student's Asthma Reaction Protocol form are taken on excursions and/or activities outside of the school;
- include the student's Asthma Reactions Protocol form in his or her daybook/record book;
- practice asthma triggers avoidance measures within the school, at school events and out-of-school activities;
- communicate to students and staff about how to help with asthma trigger prevention and risks associated with asthma;
- communicate health or safety concerns to the Principal;
- ensure that occasional staff in the classroom are aware of students at risk for asthma by including a communication on daily plans about emergency procedures;
- create and enforce asthma trigger avoidance strategies within the school environment
- foster a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive environment to those at risk of asthma and;
- inform the Principal of their own asthma condition;
- Ensure that all appropriate information is included in each student's Medical Risk Binder.

Office and support staff shall:

- participate in asthma training annually;
- practice asthma trigger avoidance measures within the school, at school events and out-of-school activities;
- communicate to students and staff about how to help with asthma trigger prevention and risks associated with asthma;
- communicate health or safety concerns to the Principal;
- create and enforce asthma trigger avoidance strategies within the school environment
- foster a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive environment for those at risk of asthma; and;
- inform the Principal of their own asthma condition.

Therapists, Visitors and Volunteers shall:

- practice asthma trigger avoidance measures within the school, at school events and out-of-school activities;
- communicate to students and staff about how to help with asthma trigger prevention and risks associated with asthma;
- communicate health or safety concerns to the Principal;
- create and enforce asthma trigger avoidance strategies within the school environment
- foster a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive environment for those at risk of asthma; and;
- inform the Principal of their own asthma condition.

Parents shall:

- ensure that their child, where age and/or developmentally appropriate, carries the asthma medication with him/her at all times;
- call the school to schedule a meeting with the teacher/principal to discuss their child's Asthma Reactions Protocol form if they so choose;
- alert the school to their child's asthma triggers by completing the Asthma Reactions Protocol form, the request for administration of medication; or advisement of self-administration of medication on the forms prescribed, upon registration for new students and each September for returning students;
- provide their child with suitable identification, for example, Medic Alert, which should be worn and/or carried by the student specifying the nature of the problem and the procedure to be followed in an emergency;
- practice asthma triggers avoidance measures.

Students shall:

- carry their asthma medication at all times, where age and/or developmentally appropriate;
- practice asthma triggers avoidance measures;
- alert staff if they believe they have been accidentally exposed to an asthma trigger.

The responsibilities above will be assessed based on the student's age and capability to understand their life-threatening condition.