

ASTHMA - WHEEZING - DIFFICULTY BREATHING

Students with a history of breathing difficulties including asthma/wheezing should be known to appropriate school staff. A care plan which includes an emergency action plan should be developed. ORC 3313.716 allows students to possess and use an asthma inhaler in the school. Staff must try to remain calm despite the student's anxiety. Staff in a position to administer approved medications should receive instruction.

A student with asthma/wheezing may have breathing difficulties which may include:

- Uncontrollable coughing.
- Wheezing - a high-pitched sound during breathing out.
- Rapid breathing.
- Flaring (widening) of nostrils.
- Feeling of tightness in the chest.
- Not able to speak in full sentences.
- Increased use of stomach and chest muscles during breathing.

• Did breathing difficulty develop rapidly?
• Are the lips, tongue or nail beds turning blue?

Refer to student's emergency care plan.


CALL EMS 9-1-1.

Does student have doctor- and parent/guardian-approved medication?

Has an inhaler already been used? If yes, when and how often?

Remain calm. Encourage the student to sit quietly, breathe slowly and deeply in through the nose and out through the mouth.

Administer medication as directed.

Are symptoms not improving or getting worse?

Contact responsible school authority & parent/legal guardian.


CALL EMS 9-1-1.

