

POLICY 5067

Student Asthma Emergency

A. Definitions

1. “Asthma action plan” means a written plan developed with a school, nurse, a student’s parent, and the student’s health care provider to help control the student’s asthma, which is signed by the student’s parent and health care provider.
2. “Asthma emergency” means an episode of respiratory distress that may include symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing, chest tightness, or breathing difficulty.
3. “Qualified adult” means a person who is 18 years of age or older and who has successfully completed the Utah Department of Health training program described in this policy.
4. “Stock albuterol” means a prescription inhaled medication which is used to treat asthma and that may be delivered through a device, including an inhaler or a nebulizer with a mouthpiece or mask.

[Utah Code § 26B-4-401\(4\), \(5\), \(14\), \(19\) \(2024\)](#)

B. Administration of Stock Albuterol for Asthma Emergency

1. This policy does not create a duty or standard of care for a person to be trained in the use and storage of stock albuterol, nor does it create a duty on the part of the District or a school to store stock albuterol at a school, nor does it relieve a student’s parent from providing a student’s medication, nor does it create an expectation that a school will have stock albuterol available. A school, School Board, or school official may encourage a teacher or other school official to volunteer to complete the training described below and to make stock albuterol available for asthma emergencies. A school, school board, or school official may encourage a teacher or other school employee to volunteer for such training. A school, the school board, or a school official may not prohibit or dissuade a school employee from
 - a. being trained in use and storage of stock albuterol,
 - b. possessing or storing stock albuterol on school premises (if the employee is a qualified adult and the possession and storage is in accord with training), or

- c. administering stock albuterol (if the employee is a qualified adult and the administration is in accord with training).

[Utah Code § 26B-4-406 \(2023\)](#)

2. Each primary and secondary school shall make initial and annual refresher training regarding the storage and emergency use of stock albuterol available to any interested teacher or other school employee, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, who volunteers for such training. The training will be provided by the Utah Department of Health.
3. The training will include instruction on:
 - a. Techniques for recognizing symptoms of an asthma emergency;
 - b. Standards and procedures for the storage and emergency use of a stock albuterol;
 - c. Emergency follow-up procedures, and contacting, if possible, the student's parent; and
 - d. Written materials covering the information provided during training.
4. The volunteers shall retain for reference the written materials covering the information provided during training.

[Utah Code § 26B-4-408 \(2023\)](#)

5. A teacher or other school employee who is a "qualified adult":
 - a. May ~~obtain (along with the school nurse) request~~ from the school district physician, the medical director of the local health department, the local emergency medical services director, a physician, pharmacist, or any other person or entity authorized to prescribe or dispense prescribed medicines or drugs, a prescription for stock albuterol;
 - b. May, when a school nurse is not immediately available, immediately administer stock albuterol to a person who (a) has a diagnosis of asthma by a health care provider, (b) has a current asthma action plan on file with the school, and (c) is showing symptoms of an asthma emergency as described in the student's asthma action plan;
 - c. Shall initiate appropriate medical follow-up in accordance with the training materials after administering stock albuterol.

6. Each primary or secondary school may make stock albuterol available to any teacher or other school employee who is employed at the school and has become a “qualified adult.”

[Utah Code § 26B-4-406\(6\) \(2023\)](#)

[Utah Code § 26B-4-409\(1\) \(2024\)](#)

7. A school may obtain a prescription for a supply of stock albuterol for storage at the school and use by qualified adults if the school (a) designates an individual to complete an initial and annual refresher training program regarding the proper storage and emergency use of stock albuterol and (b) stores the stock albuterol according to Utah Department of Health standards.

[Utah Code § 26B-4-409\(5\) \(2024\)](#)

8. The following, if acting in good faith, are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any act taken or not taken under the authority of [Utah Code § 26B-4-401](#) et seq. with respect to an asthma emergency:

- a. A “qualified adult”,
- b. A person who conducts training regarding the emergency use and storage of stock albuterol, and
- c. The District or its schools

[Utah Code § 26B-4-410 \(2024\)](#)

- C. [Policy 5065 Administration of Medication](#) prohibits elementary and middle school students from carrying and self-administering medication on school premises except under certain limited circumstances. However, elementary and middle school students may carry and self-administer prescription or non-prescription asthma medications provided that the student’s parent has previously provided the school with a written request and written health care provider approval.

1. The written request must state that the parent authorizes the student to have and use the asthma medication.
2. The written health care provider statement must specifically identify any prescription medication and must state that:
 - a. The name of the asthma medication prescribed or authorized for the student’s use and

- b. The student is capable of appropriately self-administering the medication, and
 - c. The provider finds that it is medically appropriate for the student to keep the medication with or readily available to him or her at all time.
- D. If the medication is to be stored other than on the student's person, the student or parent shall inform the school nurse and administration where the medication will be kept to enable access for emergency use.
- E. The student shall only use prescription asthma medication as directed by a health care provider's written order, and shall use non-prescription asthma medication in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- F. No student is permitted to sell, share, or otherwise give to others any medication, prescription or non-prescription. Violations of this policy are subject to disciplinary action under the school's drug policies.