

Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers

Madison School District 321 shall permit students to possess asthma inhalers and to self-administer the prescribed medication used to treat asthma.

Possession and use of asthma inhalers and use of epinephrine auto-injectors for severe allergic reactions by students shall be in accordance with Idaho Statue Chapter 5, Title 33, Section 33-520 (Policy Governing Medical Inhalers), SB 1443 and Madison School District 321 policy.

Asthma inhaler shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.

Self-administration shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler during school hours, Madison School District 321 shall require the following:

1. A written request from the parent/guardian that the school complies with the order of the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
2. A signed statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the school and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
3. A written statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states:
 - a. Name of the drug.
 - b. Prescribed dosage.
 - c. Times medication is to be taken.
 - d. Length of time medication is prescribed.
 - e. Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential.
 - f. Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication.
 - g. Emergency response.
 - h. If student is qualified and able to self-administer the medication.

The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler is intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students. Violations of this policy by a student shall result in written warning issued to parent/guardian and child with any subsequent violations resulting in a formal meeting between parent/guardian, child and school official.

Madison School District 321 reserves the right to require a statement from the physician,

certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.

A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the Principal and/or Secretary the capability of self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.

To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:

1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
2. Student is capable of identifying individual medications by name.
3. Student is knowledgeable of purpose of individual medications.
4. Student is able to identify/associate specific symptom occurrence and need for medication administration.
5. Student is capable/knowledgeable of medication dosage.
6. Student is knowledgeable about method of medication administration.
7. Student is able to state side effects/adverse reactions to this medication.
8. Student is knowledgeable of how to access assistance for self if needed in an emergency.
9. Student is able to identify safety issues: no sharing of medications with others; need for safe storage of medication; consistent placement of medication

Policy History

Adopted on: May 15, 2014

Revised on: