



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR SCHOOLS: **Training School Personnel to Implement Emergency Stock Asthma Medication**

Asthma remains one of the most common chronic diseases among children, significantly impacting school attendance and student performance. Implementing a stock asthma medication program is a significant step toward safeguarding the health of students with asthma. However, schools often face several barriers, including training key personnel to administer emergency stock asthma medication.

In 2023, the American Lung Association convened experts in asthma management in schools to discuss barriers to implement stock asthma medication programs. To address asthma emergencies, schools must be equipped with stock asthma medications and trained personnel to administer them.

Key Challenges

Preparing trained personnel to implement an emergency stock asthma medication program presents the following challenges:

- Not all schools have a full-time nurse available, complicating the implementation of a stock asthma medication programs, especially if the state law requires a nurse to administer the medication.
- Schools may find it difficult to identify and recruit individuals for training, particularly due to concerns about liability or legal repercussions if something goes wrong while administering medication.
- The absence of a standardized, nationwide training forces some states to create their own, resulting in inconsistency and duplication of efforts.
- Some schools may struggle to allocate the necessary resources for training and stocking medications.

Below are a few key strategies identified by the group to establish a training protocol and prepare key personnel to implement a stock asthma medication program.

Expand Training Beyond Nurses

Several states that have established stock asthma medication programs suggest that it is important to train multiple staff members to ensure coverage when a school nurse is not available. Identify at least two designated personnel per school building who can be trained. Consider additional individuals based on asthma prevalence and school-specific needs. Advocate for legislation that allows trained non-nurse personnel to administer stock asthma medication. This can increase the pool of available individuals in schools where full-time nurses are not present. States like Arizona, Georgia, and Missouri have enacted laws that indemnify trained school personnel from liability, thus allowing non-nurses to administer asthma medication.



Establish Training Guidelines Processes

Establish clear guidelines and criteria for selecting and training personnel. Provide reassurance and legal protections to alleviate fears of liability. For example, Illinois has implemented clear, state-mandated annual training for school personnel, ensuring consistency and legal clarity.

Use Standardized Training Resources

Adopt existing training programs, such as the American Lung Association's free course, **Stock Asthma Medication: Implementation Guidance for Schools** to ensure consistency and reduce duplication of effort. Also, consider reaching out to states with existing training programs, such as Arizona, that has a standardized, web-based training program. Use their successful training as a model and customize the training to meet the needs of implementers in your state.

Ensure Adequate Funding to Develop and Maintain Training

Seek grants or partnerships to fund the development and maintain the training. Arizona's program is fully supported by grants, making it accessible to schools without financial barriers. Explore state level funding options as well.

Implement the Training Program

- Conduct initial training sessions
- Provide hands-on practice with placebo inhalers
- Ensure all trained personnel understand the emergency protocol

Monitor and Evaluate

- Track usage of stock medication training
- Gather feedback from trained personnel
- Assess the training feedback and revise as necessary

Provide Ongoing Support and Refresher Training

- Schedule annual refresher training
- Keep personnel updated on any changes in protocols or legislation

Examples of Successful Implementation

States like Arizona and Illinois have established stock asthma medication programs with training components.



Arizona's Stock Inhaler for Schools Program is a well-developed initiative that provides schools with albuterol inhalers and necessary training. The program includes online training that can be completed in under an hour. It was launched in 2017 and has expanded significantly, with about 650 schools participating as of Fall 2023.¹



Illinois has the **RESCUE Illinois Schools** program, which mandates annual training for school personnel who administer stock asthma medication. This program is supported by state legislation and funding, ensuring that schools have the resources they need to manage asthma emergencies effectively.²

Resources

- Visit the [Asthma Medication in Schools](#) page on Lung.org to find information about your state law and access resources.
- Participate in the American Lung Association's [Stock Asthma Medication: Implementation Guidance for Schools](#) course.
- Download the American Lung Association's [Stock Asthma Medication Toolkit](#) or the [AAAAI Stock Inhaler Toolkit for Schools](#).

For more information on management asthma in schools, please visit
[Lung.org/asthma-in-schools](https://www.lung.org/asthma-in-schools).

This document serves as a starting point for implementing a Stock Asthma Medication Program in schools. It is intended to provide general guidance and should not be considered as legal or medical advice. Always consult with healthcare professionals and legal advisors to tailor the program to your school's specific needs and ensure compliance with local and state regulations.

¹ Arizona Asthma Coalition. <https://azasthma.org/school-stock-inhaler>

² Respiratory Health Association. <https://resphealth.org/>