

<b>Asthma</b>	
<b>Adopted:</b> December 18, 2012	<b>Last Reviewed/Revised:</b> February 3, 2025
<b>Next Scheduled Review:</b> 2027-2028	
<b>Associated Policies &amp; Procedures:</b> <a href="#">II-42 Medical Conditions</a> <a href="#">VI-68 Medications – Oral (Prescription, Non-Prescription)</a> <a href="#">VI-79 Indoor Air Quality Investigation Process</a>	

## Purpose

To provide Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) school administrators, school staff, appropriate others (e.g., volunteers) and parents/guardians with information, requirements and resources to assist students in managing their asthma according to the Student Plan of Care.

To provide school staff and appropriate others with strategies of when and how to respond appropriately to an emergency incident according to the Student Plan of Care.

To minimize, where possible, the risks (triggers) in the school setting for students and others who are diagnosed with asthma.

## Application and Scope

This procedure for Asthma management is a guideline to be used by school staff and appropriate others (e.g., transportation providers, food service providers, volunteers, etc.), that addresses the components outlined in Ryan's Law and PPM 161 (Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Asthma) in schools, 2018), to assist students in managing their asthma and respond to an emergency situation on school site and/or at off-site school/HCDSB approved activities.

## References

[Good Samaritan Act](#)

[PPM161](#)

[Ryan's Law \(Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools\), 2015](#)

## Definitions

**Asthma:** is a chronic inflammatory disease of the airway. When in the presence of allergens (triggers), the airways to the lungs react by narrowing and/or fill with mucus which makes breathing difficult. If asthma is not treated properly, this can result in a life-threatening situation. Students with asthma must minimize the contact with (allergens) triggers and take a controller medication and a reliever inhaler when appropriate.

In general, students are able to self administer their reliever inhaler. Where a student cannot self administer their inhaler, these students will be identified on the Student's Plan of Care.

## Principles

- The ultimate responsibility for asthma management rests with the family and the student.
- The goal for all students with asthma is to become as independent as possible, as soon as possible, in managing their asthma. Independence of care also includes the development of self advocacy skills and a circle of support among persons who understand the disease and can provide assistance as needed that will empower students, as confident and capable learners, to reach their full potential for self management of their medical condition(s) according to their Student Plan of Care.
- The role of the school is to support students with asthma to fully access school in a safe, accepting and healthy learning environment as outlined in their Student Plan of Care, while being aware of confidentiality and dignity of the student along with their well-being.

## Requirements

The Principal or designate has the responsibility to coordinate communication of information to all school staff and to ensure that appropriate staff and others are familiar with the requirements and expectations of the HCDSB's Asthma Protocol.

All requirements from, Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools), 2015 and PPM 161 are to be followed, and include:

1. A communication plan for the dissemination of information on supporting students with asthma to parents/guardians, school staff and others in the community who are in direct contact with students (e.g., transportation providers, food service providers, volunteers, etc.).
2. Training, at minimum annually and reviewed as appropriate, is to be provided for school staff who have direct contact with the student to ensure the safety and well-being of the student.

3. The classroom teacher and an alternate are to be provided instructions on how to assist the student to properly administer their reliever inhaler, which can be done by the student's parent/guardian or health care worker.

The scope of the training should include the following:

- strategies for preventing risk of student exposure to triggers and causative agents
  - strategies for supporting inclusion and participation in school
  - recognition of symptoms of a medical incident and medical emergency
  - information on school staff supports, in accordance with HCDSB policy
  - medical incident response and medical emergency response
  - documentation procedures
4. A requirement that every school administrator/designate will co-create, review, or update, the Student Plan of Care for a student with asthma, following HCDSB approved procedures, in consultation with the parents/guardians, school staff (as appropriate), and with the student (as appropriate), along with any notes and instructions from the student's health care provider.
  5. A requirement that every Principal inform employees and others who are in direct contact on a regular basis with a student with asthma about the contents of the Student Plan of Care.
  6. A requirement that every Principal ensure that, upon registration, parents/guardians and students shall be asked to supply information about asthma.
  7. A requirement that every Principal maintain a file of current treatment and other relevant information for each student with asthma, including a copy of any notes and instructions from the student's health care provider, a current emergency contact list and:
    - Student Plan of Care
    - Request and Consent for the Administration of Asthma Intervention

## **Resources**

School Administrators (or designate) are to be familiar with and use the following resources in developing a school wide comprehensive asthma plan:

- HCDSB Asthma Protocol
- HCDSB Asthma Parent/Guardian Package
- HCDSB Medical Conditions School Administrators Responsibilities Chart
- HCDSB Medical Conditions Staff Responsibilities Chart
- HCDSB Asthma Protocol - Asthma Avoidance Strategies
- Asthma Video

All School Staff are to be familiar with, and use, the following resources to support a student in managing their asthma:

- HCDSB Asthma Protocol
- HCDSB Medical Conditions Staff Responsibilities Chart
- HCDSB Asthma Protocol - Asthma Avoidance Strategies
- Asthma Video

Occasional Teachers are to make themselves familiar with the content of the following resources to be used when supporting a student in managing their asthma:

- HCDSB Asthma Protocol
- HCDSB Medical Conditions Staff Responsibilities Chart
- HCDSB Asthma Protocol - Asthma Avoidance Strategies
- Asthma Video

School Custodians are to make themselves familiar with the content of the following resources to be used when supporting a student in managing their asthma:

HCDSB Asthma Protocol - Custodian Checklist

HCDSB Asthma Protocol - Asthma Avoidance Strategies

Parents/Guardians

The school administrator/designate is to provide parents/guardians and students the following resources and information that outlines the responsibilities of the parent/guardian and the students:

- HCDSB Asthma Parent/Guardian Package (available on the HCDSB website + Parents + Your Child's Health + Medical Conditions + Asthma)

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Administrative Council

AUTHORIZED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Director of Education and Secretary of the Board*