

Model policy: Stock albuterol in schools

[Insert LEA or charter school name]

Purpose

[Insert LEA] recognizes that asthma is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition affecting many students. Prompt treatment with albuterol during respiratory distress can prevent emergencies and reduce school absences. This policy outlines when and how trained school staff may administer stock albuterol to students, including those without a prior asthma diagnosis or asthma action plan on file.

Policy statement

[Insert LEA] supports the voluntary implementation of stock albuterol in schools. Stock albuterol is a fast-acting bronchodilator that may be used in asthma-related respiratory emergencies, including for students without a known asthma diagnosis, in accordance with Utah Code §26B-4-406 through §26B-4-410 and related administrative rules.

Conditions for administering stock albuterol

Trained school staff may administer stock albuterol to a student under the following conditions:

- The student is exhibiting signs of respiratory distress consistent with asthma or reactive airway disease.
- The student either:
 - Has a signed asthma action plan on file and is unable to access their own inhaler, or
 - Does not have an asthma action plan on file but is experiencing a respiratory emergency, in accordance with the emergency protocol outlined in DHHS guidelines.
- A qualified adult (as defined in Utah Code §26B-4-406) is present and has completed the required training.

Definition of qualified adult

A “qualified adult” is a school employee who:

- Is 18 years of age or older.
- Volunteers to administer stock albuterol.
- Is employed by the school or district.
- Has completed the Utah DHHS-approved stock albuterol training every year.

Training requirements

All staff who administer stock albuterol must:

- Complete the DHHS-approved online training module.
- Repeat the training every year.
- Understand proper recognition of asthma symptoms, use of inhalers/spacers, emergency response steps, and required documentation.

The school nurse is responsible to make sure staff complete the required training and are competent to administer stock albuterol.

Storage and access

Stock albuterol must be stored in:

- An accessible but secure and unlocked location known to the school nurse and trained staff.
- Clearly labeled containers marked "Stock albuterol – For emergency use."
- Conditions that meet manufacturer guidelines (room temperature, away from moisture/sunlight).

Administration protocols

Refer to the Utah Department of Health and Human Services stock albuterol guidelines for detailed protocols, including:

- Emergency response steps based on symptom severity.
- Dosing instructions (4 puffs for moderate symptoms, 8 for severe).
- When to call 911.
- Observation and post-administration care.

Documentation and reporting

After any stock albuterol use:

- Document all actions using the medication log.
- Notify the parent/caregiver, principal, and school nurse.
- Include the incident in the School Health Workload Report submitted each year to the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.
- Complete a medication error report if an error occurred.

Liability protections

As outlined in Utah Code §26B-4-410, no school or trained staff shall be held liable for administering stock albuterol in good faith, except in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

Obtaining stock albuterol

Stock albuterol may be obtained:

- Under the Utah Department of Health and Human Services statewide standing order (form available at <https://redcap.link/albuterolSO>).
- By prescription from a licensed healthcare provider working with the school or local education agency (LEA).

All medications must be purchased through a licensed pharmacy. Schools are responsible for cost, inventory, and replacement of expired or used medication and supplies.

Effective date

This policy shall take effect in full on [Insert date].

Model policy references

American Lung Association. (n.d.). Asthma Management in Schools: Assessing a child's readiness to carry and use a quick-relief inhaler [Online course]. Lung Training. Retrieved July 14, 2025, from <https://lung.training/courses/readiness.html>

American Lung Association, (n.d.). Model policy on stock bronchodilators. Retrieved from <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/92bd8d3f-c5ca-46c0-9063-9d5719ec690b/model-policy-for-school.pdf.pdf>

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