

# Asthma Emergency Response Protocol

## Be Prepared

Know which students have asthma and where their medicine is kept. Treating symptoms promptly is best practice. Common symptoms of asthma include:

- **Repetitive coughing/Wheezing**
- **Tight chest**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Waking up at night with difficulty breathing**

## Call 911 if:

- ❖ Student is struggling to breathe, talk, stay awake, has blue lips, or asks for an ambulance.
  - ❖ There is no improvement in student symptoms after rescue medication is administered.
  - ❖ No asthma rescue medication is available, the student's symptoms have not improved spontaneously, and nurse/designee or parent/guardian is not available.
  - ❖ You are unsure what to do.
- Make call from location of incident, if possible.
  - Use speaker mode on phone, if possible.
  - Be prepared to provide EMS Dispatcher with location name and address and the entrance door number nearest to the emergency situation.
  - Don't hang up the phone until instructed to do so by the EMS Dispatcher.
  - ❖ Notify front office of medical emergency.
- ❖ **Announcement** (  OVER-HEAD;  WALKIE-TALKIE) to alert trained MERT members:

"Attention staff and students. We are now going into Lock-in (verbiage for all to stay in place) for a medical emergency in Room \_\_\_\_\_. MERT team please respond."

- ❖ Available MERT members immediately carry out assigned tasks.
  - Take AED, student medication, stock epinephrine auto-injector and any emergency medical supplies and medication to location.
  - Inform Central Administration of Emergency.
  - Contact parents/guardians. Meet them in the parking lot.
  - Meet the ambulance.
  - Unlock the gate/door/direct traffic
  - Copy the medical records of the student. Provide to EMS.
  - Control the scene. Clear the area by directing uninvolved students to alternate location
  - Document emergency situation and response on Emergency Response/Incident Report form
  - Conduct debriefing session of incident and response following the event.
- ❖ MERT members immediately initiate the student's specific AAP– if no AAP on file, employ Basic First Aid/CPR/AED training.
  - NEVER LEAVE THE STUDENT ALONE.
  - Help the student be calm and in a comfortable position.
  - Help the student locate and take their prescribed asthma rescue medication.
  - Repeat rescue medication in 15 minutes if student is still having trouble breathing.
- ❖ **If breathing stops or becomes ineffective, start CPR, and use AED**
- ❖ **Ensure that 9-1-1 has been called.**

**When logical and possible, initiate actions simultaneously.**