

# Michigan Inhaler Law Fact Sheet



## What is asthma?

Asthma is a serious lifelong disease caused by swelling and tightening in the airways. An asthma attack can only be treated by using a rescue inhaler right away. **Without a rescue inhaler, an asthma attack can be deadly.**

## Did you know?

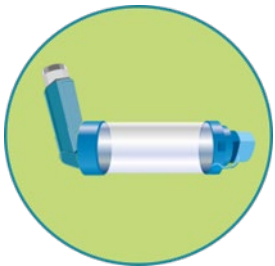
✓ Asthma is a leading cause of missed school days: **About 10% of Michigan students with asthma miss more than 6 days of school each year due to asthma.**



✓ **About a third of Michigan students with asthma ages 10-17 say they are not allowed to carry their medication with them at school, despite Michigan's inhaler law.**

## What does the law do?

[Michigan Compiled Law 380.1179](#) allows Michigan public and nonpublic school children, under certain conditions (see below), to carry and self-administer prescribed asthma medication on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities. This allows students to:



- ✓ Carry and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler to treat asthma symptoms, or to take before exercise to prevent the start of symptoms.
- ✓ Use these life-saving medications on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities. This includes school sponsored transportation, activities, events or school-related programs.



## To self-carry an inhaler, students must provide:

- ✓ Written permission to carry and use their inhaler from their physician or other health care provider authorized by law to prescribe it.
- ✓ A copy of each written approval to the principal or chief school administrator.
- ✓ Permission from their parent or legal guardian to carry and use their inhaler (unless over the age of 18).
- ✓ A written emergency care plan with instructions for their asthma needs. This plan should be made by a physician working with the family or legal guardian and get updated as needed.

## Keep in mind

Students have died on school property because they did not have fast access to their inhaler, which may open schools to risk for lawsuits.

? For more information on asthma and school health, visit: [School Health Services \(Michigan.gov\)](#) and [Michigan.gov/asthma](#).