

# REGULATION

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Related Entries:** JEC, JEC-RA, JECA, JECA-RA

**Responsible Office:** OFFICE OF STUDENT AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS

### USE OF STOCK BRONCHODILATORS

#### A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for acquisition, storage, and use of stock bronchodilators in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), in accordance with State law.

#### B. BACKGROUND

Students who attend AACPS who have been diagnosed with asthma may have an Asthma Action Plan on file at their school. In accordance with State law and the *Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines: Use of Stock Bronchodilators in Maryland Schools*, school nurses and designated school personnel administer a bronchodilator to a student who is determined to be or perceived to be experiencing asthma-related symptoms or is perceived to be in respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has been diagnosed with asthma, reactive airway disease, or has been prescribed a bronchodilator.

#### C. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are for the purposes of this regulation.

1. ***Asthma*** – a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows air passages, causing recurring periods of wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing.
2. ***Bronchodilator*** – a medication that relaxes bronchial muscles, resulting in the expansion of bronchial air passages to provide fast treatment of asthma-related symptoms and symptoms of respiratory distress. Albuterol or albuterol sulfate, an orally inhaled medication that may be delivered via metered dose inhaler or nebulizer.
3. ***School Personnel*** – individuals who are employed by AACPS or by the Anne Arundel County Department of Health. School personnel include part-time employees, teachers, substitute teachers employed by the school for at least 7 days each school year, registered case managers, delegating nurses, and administrative staff.

4. ***Stock Bronchodilator*** – a bronchodilator that is kept on hand in a school to be used in the event of an emergency when a student is or is perceived to be experiencing asthma-related symptoms or respiratory distress and the student does not have a bronchodilator of their own readily available.

## D. PROCEDURES

### 1. Training Requirements for School Personnel

- a. Training shall be provided on an annual basis to school nurses and voluntary school personnel who are designated by a school nurse and, in the clinical judgment of the school nurse, are appropriate recipients of the training.
- b. Training shall include how to:
  - i. Identify the signs and symptoms of asthma or respiratory distress;
  - ii. Identify the symptoms of anaphylaxis; and
  - iii. Distinguish between anaphylaxis and asthma or respiratory distress.

### 2. Emergency Use of Stock Bronchodilators

- a. Bronchodilators and modes of delivery, including inhalers, shall be stored in every school to be used in an emergency situation by the school nurse or school personnel designated by the school nurse.
- b. Emergency administration of a stock bronchodilator to a student who is, or is perceived to be, experiencing asthma-related symptoms or respiratory distress is appropriate in the following situations:
  - i. The student has a current Asthma Action Plan but does not have an unexpired prescribed short-acting bronchodilator readily available. The Asthma Action Plan and the school's supply of a stock bronchodilator with a spacer shall be used; and
  - ii. The student has no Asthma Action Plan or prescription for a bronchodilator. The school's supply of a stock bronchodilator with a spacer shall be used.
- c. If there is a reason to believe that the student is experiencing anaphylaxis, a school nurse or designated school personnel shall follow the procedures outlined in Board Policy JECA and Administrative Regulation JECA-RA – Students with Anaphylactic Allergies or Perceived Symptoms of Anaphylaxis.

### 3. Reporting Requirements

- a. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified when a stock bronchodilator is administered to a student.
- b. School health staff shall follow-up with families and assist with any additional support services needed to effectively manage the student in the school setting.
- c. School health staff shall document symptoms of respiratory distress, intervention, disposition, and follow-up care in the student's health record following administration of a stock bronchodilator.
- d. For each incident at the school or at a related school event that requires the use of a stock bronchodilator, each school shall report the incident to the Maryland State Department of Education within 2 school days. A copy of this form shall also be filed in the student's health record.

**Regulation History:** Issued 01/14/26

**Note Previous Regulation History:** None

**Legal References:** Sections 7-401 and 7-426.6 of the Education Article, *Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines: Use of Stock Bronchodilators in Maryland Schools*