



Illinois State Board of Education


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Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala 
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: September 23, 2021

SUBJECT: The Program and Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication Report, School Year 2020-21

"The Program and Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication Report, School Year 2019-20" is issued pursuant to Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30]. This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosages of undesignated asthma medication reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2020-21 school year.

A summary of the major findings:

- There were six districts and one nonpublic special education program that reported administration of undesignated asthma medication during the 2020-21 school year.
- Most occurrences (n=13) were within a school building. There were six occurrences on school grounds.
- Metered dose inhalers were used for administration 89 percent of the time.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. For additional copies of this report or for more specific information, please contact Amanda Elliott, executive director of Legislative Affairs, at (217) 782-6510 or aelliott@isbe.net.

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center

**The Administration of Undesignated
Asthma Medication
School Year 2020-21**

**Illinois State Board of Education
Center for Safe and Healthy Climate
Wellness Department
September 2021**

*Darren Reisberg, Chairman
State Board of Education*

*Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education*

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Foreword

The administration from a stock supply of asthma medication to persons who may be experiencing respiratory distress is permitted by Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-30). Public Act 100-0726 requires a report form to be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by each Illinois public and nonpublic school that administers a dose under this Act. This report is to be provided to ISBE within three days of the incident that necessitated use of the rescue medication.

This report document is a compilation of data on the frequency and circumstances of undesignated asthma medication administration during the preceding academic year.

Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to Rebecca Doran at rdoran@isbe.net or Theresa Zumba at tzumba@isbe.net in the ISBE Wellness Department. They also can be contacted by calling (217) 782-5270.

Background

Any Illinois school may obtain a medical order for quick relief asthma medication, including albuterol or other short-acting bronchodilators, delivered through a metered dose inhaler with a reusable or disposable spacer or a nebulizer with a mouthpiece or mask. Schools may maintain a supply of the drug and train personnel to recognize and respond to a person experiencing respiratory distress. The Board shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly by October 1 every year and publish the report online on the same day of its submission. This report summarizes the data reported to ISBE during the 2020-21 school year.

Methodology

Data collection instruments and procedures used by schools to report data on the use of asthma medication are in accordance with the formal rules process (rule 1.540, <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ONEARK.pdf>).

The 2020-21 data collection was conducted using the “Undesignated Asthma Medication Reporting Form” (ISBE 34-22), <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/34-22-undesignated-asthma-medication-rptg.pdf>.

Schools emailed the completed forms to asthmamed@isbe.net, which is an email account accessible by staff in the Data Analysis and Wellness Departments.

Limitations

The enforcement of the reporting requirement of this Act continues for the school year 2020-21, ending June 30, 2021.

- The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of email submission of data.
- A statewide Declaration of emergency related to a pandemic impacted several schools holding in-person classes and having students, families, and personnel on school grounds during the 2020-21 school year.
- The validity of the data reported is subject to accessibility of the reporting email address.

School Year 2020-21 Results

There were 20 reports of schools administering undesignated asthma medication in the state during the 2020-21 school year. All the doses were administered to students, except one. Medication was administered to children ranging from 4 to 17 years of age, with a mean age of 10 and a median age 10.64 years for reported ages. Only one of the reports indicated no previous diagnosis of asthma. There were 18 youths who were previously diagnosed with asthma. Eight of them had an Asthma Action Plan on file with the school, while eight did not. Two reports did not indicate the presence of an Asthma Action Plan.

The undesignated asthma medication was administered by health professionals (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or health coordinator) in each instance in which it was used. Two incidents reported notifying the individual's health provider of use of the undesignated asthma medication at school. There were no reports of a student being taken to be evaluated by a health provider.

Medication was administered by a dose inhaler, in all but two cases. A spacer was used for one student. Incidents reporting use of undesignated asthma medication came from seven districts. One district reported ten incidents, with nine of those in the same elementary school building. The earliest date of reported use came on September 29, with the last occurring on May 13, 2021. Fourteen occurred in the morning hours, while six happened in the afternoon. The earliest reported time was 9 a.m. and the latest was 1:31 p.m.