

ASTHMA UPDATE FOR SCHOOLS - OCTOBER 2019

Dear Colleagues

PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA IN YOUR SCHOOL

Following on from a recent audit of asthma awareness in Havering Schools we are writing to you to ask you as a matter of urgency to ensure that your school is well placed to support children with asthma. Colleagues in Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge should also be considering how to support children with asthma.

Why does asthma matter and why now?

As we enter the flu season and experience colder winter temperatures and variable air quality it is vital that schools are well prepared to meet the on-going health needs of the children in their care. As you will be aware:

- **Asthma is a serious condition which can kill if there isn't appropriate support available**
- **About 3 out of every 30 school children has asthma or a similar condition.**
- **We all have role is supporting children with asthma.**

What can I do about it?

It is a statutory responsibility and common sense to be prepared to support children with medical conditions in your care. We would strongly encourage you to share the links below in staff briefings or team meetings you might be holding. Staff with asthmatic children in their care need to be aware of what to do if a child with asthma becomes unwell at school. The resources below will help you get ready to support children with asthma in your school.

RESOURCES TO SHARE WITH YOUR STAFF:

We have compiled a basic pack of links to key information including: The Healthy London Partnership Asthma Toolkit, Asthma UK Resources for schools, Department for Education guidance and the London Air Quality online resource.

1 The Healthy London Partnership (HLP) Asthma Toolkit has a specific selection of tools and resources that can help you ensure that your staff are well prepared to meet the needs of the children in your care and have the confidence to support. **The Toolkit has a number of vital resources including:**

- **The London Schools' Guide for the care of children and young people with asthma: Pre-school, primary and secondary school years :**
<https://www.healthy london.org/resource/london-schools-guide-care-children-young-people-asthma-pre-school-primary-secondary-school-years/>
- **A simple guide to what to do if a child has an asthma emergency in school can be located here:** <https://www.healthy london.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/What-to-do-in-an-asthma-emergency.pdf>

- A brief film on what Schools can do to help children with asthma can be accessed here: <https://www.healthy london.org/resource/london-asthma-toolkit/schools/film/>
- Resources for schools on a wide range of asthma issues including policies for Long Term Conditions and Salbutamol inhalers in schools are available here: <https://www.healthy london.org/resource/london-asthma-toolkit/schools/resources/>
- A free online learning for schools on asthma is available here: <https://sch.educationforhealth.org/wp/>

You can access the full toolkit by following the link:

<https://www.healthy london.org/resource/london-asthma-toolkit/schools/>

2 Asthma UK have many resources that can support you to support the children in your care.

Asthma UK's helpline is **0300 222 5800** and available Monday to Friday 9-5pm, with Nurses who are able to talk you through the basics of what you can do to support children in your school.

Asthma UK Online resources:

- Resources for schools: <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/child/life/school#pe>
- Asthma UK's simple guide to what to do if a child is experiencing an asthma attack is available here: <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/child/asthma-attacks/>

3 Air Quality: Air Quality is an important issue for children with asthma and we need to ensure that children who are exposed to poorer air quality on or around the school run are well supported. See: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality>

4 Department for Education (DfE) Statutory and operational Schools

Guidance: You will also be aware that there is a wide range of Department for Education guidance aimed at supporting pupils with Long term Conditions, including asthma. A small range of essential items is included below:

Guidance on Supporting Pupils with Long Term

Conditions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

Guidance on Emergency Asthma Inhalers in

Schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-asthma-inhalers-for-use-in-schools>

In addition to these the **Health Conditions in Schools Alliance** have a really useful series of resources in a website aimed at supporting primary and secondary schools. Asthma is one of the Long-Term Conditions they provide advice on: <http://www.medicalconditionsatschool.org.uk/>

Please also see the attached letters covering emergency asthma inhalers in schools.

Please ensure your staff have the information they need to about asthma.

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