**School Stock Inhaler Program**

**COVID-19 Guidelines**

**General Information**

* The American Lung Association’s Model Policy for School Districts: Stock Bronchodilators recommends using inhalers with disposable spacers or disposable mouthpieces. CDC is not aware of data regarding viral contamination of spacer devices.
* Nebulizers are not recommended in the school setting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Asthma treatments using inhalers with spacers are preferred; the use of asthma inhalers does not appear to release coronavirus particles into the air.
* Inhalers should be used and cleaned according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
* Use of peak flow meters is not considered an aerosol-generating procedure associated with increased risk of transmitting COVID-19. However, for some people with asthma, using a peak flow meter can trigger cough.

**Administering the stock inhaler**

Stock Albuterol Inhaler Protocol & Action Plan for treating Emergency Respiratory Distress

With the following COVID -19 guidelines:

* Staff administering the stock inhaler should utilize gloves, medical or surgical facemask, and eye protection.
* School staff should be trained on how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of used PPE.
* The number of people present in the room should be limited to the student and the staff member administering the treatment.
* The room should undergo routine cleaning and disinfection after the inhaler is used.
* School staff who administer asthma medication to students should use good hand hygiene, including washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after administration.
* If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, staff should use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
* Do not allow the student to touch the inhaler (e.g., the student can touch the spacer, but only the school staff administering the inhaler can touch the inhaler).
* Wiping all surfaces of an inhaler with an alcohol-based wipe containing at least 70% alcohol after inhaler use, and then allowing these surfaces to air-dry can prevent bacterial cross-contamination.
* Throw the spacer away after each use, rather than placing it in a Ziploc bag with the student’s name.
* Follow Post-Incident Documentation & Follow up