

# THE STOCK INHALER FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



## MESSAGE FROM THE STOCK INHALER FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I hope you are having a wonderful Fall and that the school year is going smoothly!

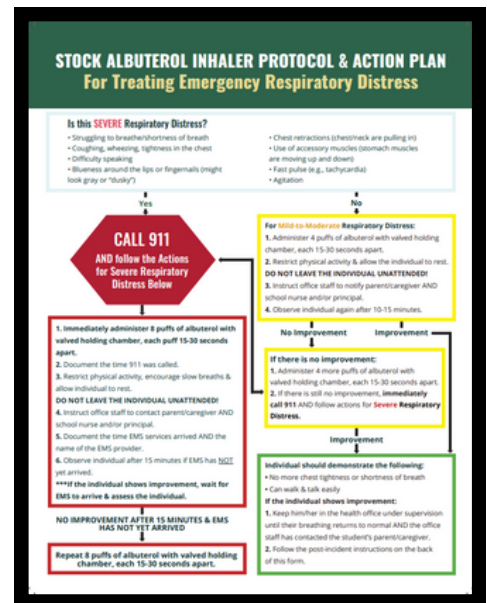
Our team had a busy month distributing program supplies to all of the schools. By now, your school(s) should have received supplies (inhaler, valved-holding chambers, etc.) for this upcoming school year. If you have not received your supplies, it is likely because we are waiting on your school(s) to complete the web-based training and upload staff certificates to the Pima County Stock Inhaler Portal.

If you have any questions about the web-based training, data collection, standardized protocol, or any other concerns, contact Emily Waldron (ewaldron@arizona.edu) or Nathan Mottern (nathanmottern@arizona.edu). We appreciate your partnership and thank you for continued support. Warmly,  
Ashley Lowe, PhD, MSPH, Stock Inhaler for Schools Program Director

## Stock Albuterol Protocol & Action Plan Reminder

The Stock Albuterol Protocol & Action Plan must be followed when administering the stock albuterol inhaler. The action plan directs all trained school staff to deliver a fixed dose of **4** or **8** puffs. This is an equivalent dose to what a child would receive during an at-home nebulizer treatment or in the hospital setting.

If there are **any deviations** from the standardized protocol, provide an explanation using the Incident Report Form under "additional comments." **Documentation of each stock albuterol inhaler event is critical** for program sustainability. If you have questions, contact our team and we are happy to support you!



## Lessons from the Field

How do you ensure that the Stock Albuterol Inhaler Protocol & Action Plan is followed correctly by all trained staff at your schools? Any tips?



"We have our medication administration standing orders clearly written and placed electronically in our Health Services resource pages. We mandate that all health offices print out our standing orders and place them in the medication administration binder that stays at the point of service in the health office.

We educate all health office staff at the beginning of the school year prior to students coming on campus and/or in orientation for all new staff, on the stock inhaler protocol, emphasizing the importance of following the standing orders exactly how it is written, even though a student's personal inhaler, that they may have left at home, is prescribed differently."

- Penny Cuffe, BSN, RN, Tucson Unified School District

# FALL 2023 By the Numbers in Pima County

176

# OF SCHOOLS THAT COMPLETED TRAINING AND RECEIVED PROGRAM SUPPLIES

264

# OF STOCK INHALER EVENTS RECORDED IN THE PIMA COUNTY STOCK INHALER FOR SCHOOLS PORTAL

82%

% OF STUDENTS WHO RETURNED TO CLASS AFTER USING THE STOCK INHALER

## Congratulations Marana Unified School District and Tucson Unified School District!

After analyzing our data from 2022–2023, we are thrilled to report that **staff from Marana Unified School District and Tucson Unified School District** were **more than 90 percent compliant** with the Stock Albuterol Inhaler Protocol & Action Plan! Thank you for your hard work!

The Stock Inhaler for Schools Program is free during the 2023–2024 school year due to generous funding from Mercy C.A.R.E.S. It is vital to ensure future funding so the program can continue at no cost. Please help us sustain the program by inputting all data accurately.

### How can you ensure your school(s) are compliant?

1. Bookmark the [Pima County Stock Inhaler Portal link](#) on your computer.
2. **Report stock inhaler events in the Stock Inhaler Portal accurately and within 24 hours** of the event so we can track program outcomes and provide appropriate follow-up.

*Thank You*

### Program Supply Delivery Update

176 schools in Pima County received their supplies for the new school year.



Each school received:

- (1) 200-dose albuterol sulfate metered dose inhaler
- (10) Thayer LiteAire® valved-holding chambers
- 2023–2024 Stock Inhaler for Schools Program Toolkit (Downloadable)

Please remember to store the inhaler in a *secure but unlocked location* that is accessible to all trained staff.

### How has the Stock Inhaler for Schools Program impacted families at your school?

“Our community is low-income and many families cannot afford more than one inhaler. Even with insurance, the co-pay is expensive. Parents have been thankful that we have an inhaler at school for their student to use if they forget their inhaler at home.”

–School Nurse in Pima County

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