# Caring for Students with Asthma in School

Megan Habich, MSN, APRN, NP-C, PPCNP-BC, BSN, RN Jefferson County Public Schools





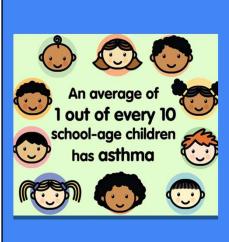
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# **Objectives**

- Increase awareness of Asthma Management of school aged children within Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS)
- 2. Review the protocol for Stock Albuterol in JCPS
- 3. Discuss how Stock Albuterol protocols can be implemented in schools.

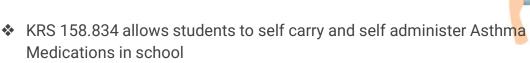
#### **Prevalence**



- According to the CDC approximately 9% of children ages 5-17 had a diagnosis of Asthma in 2018 (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2019/fig10-508.pdf)
- There are approximately 96,000 students (K-12) enrolled in JCPS for the 21-22 school year
- Of those 96,000, around 6600 students have reported being diagnosed with Asthma (less than 7%)
- 40.6% of those JCPS students reported to have Asthma are Chronically Absent for the 21-22 school year, meaning that they have missed more than 10% of days of school this school year.

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#### Managing Asthma in School



- Must have a Written Authorization Form on file that is signed by the healthcare provider stating that the student is trained and able to self administer their inhaler.
- > The Written Authorization Form must also be signed by the parent/guardian.
- > The Authorization form must be signed and submitted every school year
- If the student is not trained and able to self carry and self administer their Asthma Medication the parent/guardian must complete the Written Authorization Form
  - > Asthma inhaler will be kept in the school office/nurse's office/classroom and administered by trained school staff
  - > The inhaler is administered per prescription instructions
  - > The Authorization Form must be signed and submitted every school year

# POLICY

- In August 2020, JCPS Board Policy, Emergency Medical Treatment (09.224) was updated to allow for Stock Albuterol in all schools.
  - The policy allows for each school to stock Albuterol in order for trained staff to use for students having an asthma exacerbation or signs of respiratory distress.
- If a student does not have any Asthma medication at the school, school nurses/unlicensed staff may administer the Stock Albuterol.
- No additional student consent is required and Stock Albuterol is available for all students.

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#### **SB 127**

- March 24, 2021 Governor Beshear signed <u>SB 127</u>, encouraging schools to keep rescue bronchodilators onsite.
- Kentucky Department of Public Health developed a <u>Clinical Protocol for Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler</u> in the School Setting





#### Stock Albuterol within JCPS

- Beginning in August 2021, all JCPS schools were able to order Rescue Bronchodilators to have available in the school.
- Schools were encouraged to order 1-2 inhalers with 10 spacers.
- Cost for each item:
  - ➤ MDI-\$65.00
  - ➤ Box of 10 spacers-\$70.00
  - ➤ Box of 10 spacers with face mask-\$187.00
- Each school has a nebulizer with tubing, but was encouraged to use inhalers due to the increased risk of COVID transmission with nebulizer use.

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#### **Expected Outcomes**

- Stock Albuterol will benefit all students.
- Stock Albuterol will improve student attendance and readiness to learn.
- Stock Albuterol will increase the amount of time that students are in the classroom.
- Stock Albuterol will decrease the number of students sent home due to Asthma.
- Stock Albuterol will decrease the number of ER visits for students with Asthma.
- Students with Asthma symptoms will be identified and connected with a Healthcare Provider to manage Asthma.
- Education will be provided to students/families regarding Asthma Management.

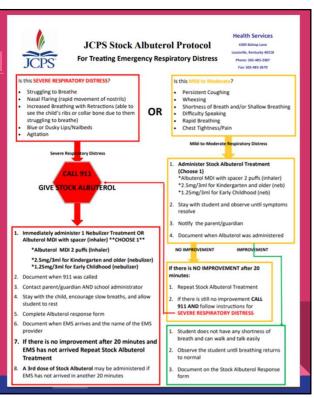
#### **Training**

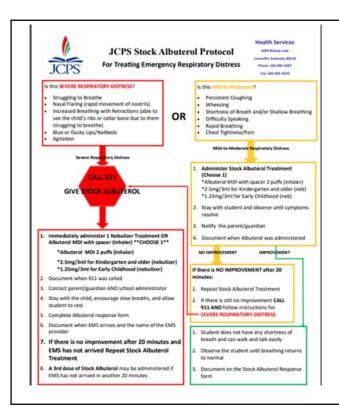
- JCPS Nurse Practitioners developed Stock Albuterol protocols for all JCPS schools.
- All School Nurses and CNA's are trained annually on the protocol.
- Unlicensed School Staff are trained on how to administer Nebulizers and Metered Dose Inhalers when completing the Annual Medication Training for Unlicensed Staff.
- Unlicensed School Staff are trained on the Stock Albuterol Protocols annually when completing the Medication Training for Unlicensed Staff.
- Trainings for school nurses and unlicensed school staff are conducted by JCPS Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses.

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#### JCPS Stock Albuterol Protocol

- Protocol is written for nebulizer treatment or MDI.
- MDI's are being encouraged at this time due to COVID and the risk of aerosolization with the nebulizer
- Each school will have 1-2 MDI and multiple disposable spacers.
- The MDI will be cleaned between uses and each student will be issued a spacer as needed.





- The protocol is color coded in Red, Yellow, and Green
- If SEVERE (examples given), Stock Albuterol is still administered, but EMS is called
- If Mild-Moderate, instructions are given to administer Stock Albuterol 1-2 times.
- If condition improves, student sent back to class
- If condition is worse/not improved, EMS is called
- Parent is always notified and documentation is completed.

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#### Documentation

- Staff will document each time that Stock Albuterol is administered.
- Documentation will be on paper or in the Electronic Health System.
- JCPS will be able to collect data regarding Stock Albuterol use.

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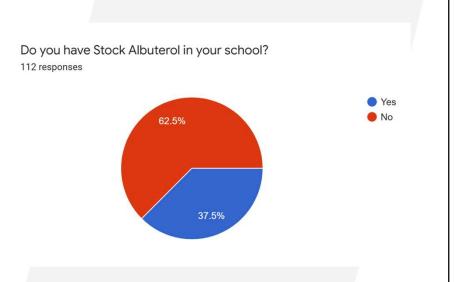
#### **Implementation**

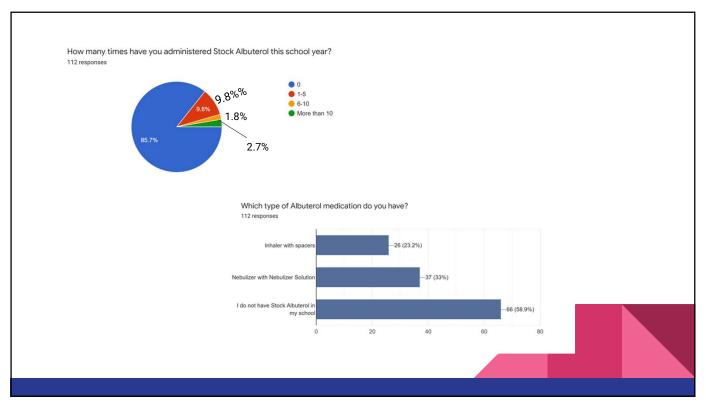
- There are 7 Nurse Practitioners hired by JCPS and approximately 150 school sites.
- Each school is assigned a Nurse Practitioner.
- The Nurse Practitioner works with the school nurse/school staff to order the MDI or nebulizer solution through an approved vendor.
- The Nurse Practitioner is able to prescribe the medication and the medication sent directly to the school site.
- The school nurse/staff also orders additional supplies through an approved vendor (spacers, nebulizer tubing, etc).

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## JCPS School Nurse Survey

 112 out of 143 nurses responded





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### **Challenges**

- Implementing Stock Albuterol during a pandemic
- Many nurses responded that the MDI and/or nebulizer solution has been ordered but they have not received it yet
- Each school has to order medication individually and have an account with the vendor
- Funding

#### **Next Steps**

- Continue to train and educate school nurses on the importance of Stock Albuterol
- Continue to train and educate unlicensed school staff on Stock Albuterol
- Continue to educate school administrators on the importance of and need for Stock Albuterol
- Transition paper documentation to a google form or documentation in an Electronic Health Record
- Collect data
- Connect students with a Primary Care Provider to improve Asthma Management
- ❖ Provide education to students/families on Asthma Medication and Management
- Continue to look for additional funding to assist with purchasing medication(s) and supplies

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# Thank You

Megan Habich, MSN, APRN, NP-C, PPCNP-BC, BSN, RN

Jefferson County Public Schools Health Services Nurse Practitioner megan.habich@jefferson.kyschools.us