



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 Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable William E. Brady, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader

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

DATE: September 24, 2020

SUBJECT: The Program and Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication Report,
School Year 2019-20

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, which is required under Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30] to issue this report, I am pleased to submit "The Program and Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication Report, School Year 2019-20." This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosage of undesignated asthma medication administrations reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2019-20 school year.

A summary of the major findings:

- There were 42 reports of school undesignated asthma medication administration in the state.
- Medication was administered to children in the range 6 to 15 years of age, with a mean age of 10 and a median age 10.12 years for reported ages.
- Metered dose inhalers were used to administer undesignated asthma medication in 29 cases.

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

**Administration of Undesignated
Asthma Medication
School Year 2019-20**

Illinois State Board of Education

Wellness Department

September 2020

*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 asthma 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 (email: rdoran@isbe.net) or Kimberly Barnes-Cummins (email: kbarnes@isbe.net) in the ISBE Wellness Department at (217) 782-5270.

Background

Any Illinois school may obtain a medical order for quick relief asthma medication, including albuterol or other short-acting, bronchodilators, that is 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 have trained 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 particular report summarizes the data reported to ISBE during the 2019-20 school year.

Methodology

Data collection instruments and procedures used by schools to report data on the use of an asthma medication are in accordance with the formal rules process (23 Ill Admin Code 1.540, <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ONEARK.pdf>).

The 2019-20 data collection was conducted using the “Undesignated Asthma Medication Reporting Form” (ISBE 34-22) found at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/34-22-undesignated-asthma-medication-rptg.pdf>.

Schools were to email the forms to asthmamed@isbe.net, which is an email account accessible by Data Strategies and Analytics and Wellness staff.

Limitations

The enforcement of the reporting requirement of this Act continued for the school year 2019-20 and ended June 30, 2020.

The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of email submission of data and the accessibility of the reporting email address.

School Year 2019-20 Results

There were 42 reports of school undesignated asthma medication administration in the state during the 2019-20 school year. All of the doses, except one, were administered to students. Medication was administered to children in the range of 6 to 15 years of age, with a mean age of 10 and a median age 10.12 years for reported ages. There were 11 reports with no age indicated. Only five of the reports indicated NO previous diagnosis of asthma. Twenty-four of the 35 youths who have been diagnosed with asthma did not have an Asthma Action Plan in place with the school; 11 youths did have a plan on file with the school.

A registered nurse administered the medication in 36 of the incidents; “other nurse” (licensed practical nurse or advanced practice nurse) administered the medication in two incidents. “Other trained personnel according to Public Act 100-0726” administered the medication in four incidents. In 33 of the occurrences, the school reportedly did not notify the child’s primary health care provider. Parental request to not notify the provider was indicated on six reports. Two separate incidences reportedly resulted in students being evaluated by a health care provider.

Medication was administered by a metered dose inhaler in 29 cases. A spacer was used for one student. Thirteen districts reported incidents regarding the use of undesignated asthma medication. One district reported nine incidents, with seven of those in the same elementary school building, one in a different elementary school, and another at the middle school level. Twenty-three occurrences were in the morning hours and 19 occurrences were in the afternoon. The earliest reported time was 8 a.m. and the latest was 4 p.m. Most occurred within the school, eight were elsewhere on school grounds, and lastly two reports indicated symptoms began at home.