

UCC Asthma Policy
Date: December, 2016
Review Date: March 1, 2017

POLICY STATEMENT:

In accordance with *Ryan's Law--Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools--2015*, it is a policy Upper Canada College to establish and maintain a policy for students diagnosed with asthma.

The safety of students with a medical condition such as asthma is a shared responsibility of the school, family, health care provider and community partners.

The policy outlines UCC's commitment to students with asthma.

Definitions:

What is asthma?

According to the Ontario Lung Association, asthma is a very common chronic (long-term) lung disease that can make it hard to breathe.

People with asthma have sensitive airways that react to triggers. There are many different types of triggers for example poor air quality, mold, dust, pollen, viral infections, animals, smoke, and cold air. Symptoms of asthma are variable and can include coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. The symptoms can range from mild to severe and sometimes can be life threatening.

Emergency Medication

"Emergency medication" refers to medication that is administered by a staff member to a student at the time of an asthma exacerbation--for example--reliever inhaler or stand-by medication.

Medication

"Medication" refers to medications that are prescribed by a healthcare provider and, by necessity, may be administered to a student, or taken by the student during school hours or school related activities.

Immunity

The Act to Protect Pupils with Asthma states that "No action or other proceedings for damages shall be commenced against an employee for an act or omission done or omitted by the

employee in good faith in the execution or intended execution of any duty of power under this Act”.

Requirements:

Upper Canada College shall:

- All students (age appropriate and according to diagnosis) with asthma needs to carry their inhaler(s) with them at all times
- Ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications;
- Identify asthma triggers in classrooms, common school areas and in planning field trips and implement strategies to reduce risk of exposure;
- Establish a communication plan to share information on asthma to parents/guardians, students, employees and include any other person who has direct contact with a student with asthma;
- Provide asthma education and regular training opportunities on recognizing and preventing asthma triggers, recognize when symptoms are worsening and managing asthma exacerbations for all employees and others who are in direct contact with students on a regular basis;
- Require that the Health Centre establish a process to identify students with asthma at time of registration or following diagnosis and gather necessary asthma related information from the parents/guardians and student;
- Require that the health centre has an asthma management plan for each student diagnosed with asthma, based on the recommendation of the student’s health care provider;
- Require that the Health Centre maintain a file for each student diagnosed with asthma. The file may contain personal medical information, treatment plans and/or other pertinent information about the student, if that information is obtained with the consent of the student or the parent/guardian, in accordance with applicable legislation, including relevant privacy legislation. This file shall include current emergency contact information;
- Require that the Health Centre inform faculty and administration and others who are in direct contact on a regular basis with a student with asthma about the contents of the student’s asthma plan;
- Review the asthma policy as part of its regular policy review cycle; and
- Include the asthma policy in the UCC policies, and the website.

