

Michigan Inhaler Law Fact Sheet



What is asthma?

Asthma is a serious lifelong disease caused by swelling and tightening in the airways. An asthma attack can only be treated by using a rescue inhaler right away. **Without a rescue inhaler, an asthma attack can be deadly.**

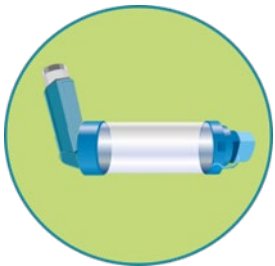
Did you know?

✓ Asthma is a leading cause of missed school days: **1 in 8 Michigan students with asthma miss more than 6 days of school each year due to asthma.**



✓ **27% of Michigan students with asthma ages 10-17 say they are not allowed to carry their medication with them at school, despite Michigan's inhaler law.**

What does the law do?



[Michigan Compiled Law 380.1179](#) allows Michigan public and nonpublic school children, under certain conditions (see below), to carry and self-administer prescribed asthma medication on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities. This allows students to:

- ✓ Carry and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler to treat asthma symptoms, or to take before exercise to prevent the start of symptoms.
- ✓ Use these life-saving medications on school grounds and during school sponsored activities. This includes school-sponsored transportation, activities, events or school-related programs.



To self-carry an inhaler, students must provide:

- ✓ Written permission to carry and use their inhaler from their physician or other health care provider authorized by law to prescribe it.
- ✓ A copy of each written approval to the principal or chief school administrator.
- ✓ Permission from their parent or legal guardian to carry and use their inhaler (unless over the age of 18).
- ✓ A written emergency care plan with instructions for their asthma needs. This plan should be made by a physician working with the family or legal guardian and get updated as needed.

Keep in mind

Students have died on school property because they did not have fast access to their inhaler, which may open schools to risk for lawsuits.



For more information on asthma and school health, visit: [School Health Services \(Michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/SchoolHealthServices) and [Michigan.gov/Asthma](https://www.michigan.gov/Asthma).