



#310-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #310-21**

DATE: November 19, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Use of Undesignated Stock Albuterol in Schools for Respiratory Distress**

The 2021 General Assembly passed [HB 2019](#) which amends the *Code of Virginia* [§ 22.1-274.2](#) to require each local school board to adopt and implement policies for the possession and administration of undesignated stock albuterol metered dose inhalers and valved holding chambers in every public school. This medication can be administered by any school nurse, employee of the school board, employee of a local governing body, or employee of a local health department, who is authorized by the local health director and trained in the administration of albuterol inhalers and valved holding chambers, for any student believed in good faith to need this medication. The legislation is effective **January 1, 2022**.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), has developed resources for schools to implement this legislation at the local level. This includes: (a) a model school policy for the use of undesignated stock albuterol, (b) best practices for administration of undesignated stock albuterol, (c) standing orders for the procurement of albuterol, (d) an algorithm for intervention due to respiratory distress, and (e) an ordering process for schools to obtain albuterol and needed supplies from the VDH.

These resources are now available under the [Chronic Disease Management section](#) on the VDOE School Health Services webpage.

The links to four short training modules for designated school personnel will be posted in the upcoming weeks as they are available. School personnel must complete training before ordering medication and needed supplies from VDH.

For more information

For additional information, contact Tracy White, School Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, by email at Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 786-8671, or Joanna Pitts, School Nurse Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Health, by email at Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 864-7590.

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