




MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker of the House

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

DATE: September 22, 2022

SUBJECT: The Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication, School Year 2021-22

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 Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication, School Year 2021-22.” This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosages of undesignated asthma medication reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2021-22 school year.

A summary of the major findings:

- There were 10 public school districts and one nonpublic special education school that reported 112 instances of administration of undesignated asthma medication during the 2021-22 school year.
- There were 99 reports of undesignated asthma medication administrations within a school building. There were 12 reports that occurred on school grounds. One report indicated “other” for the location of administration with no additional explanation.
- There were 110 administrations using metered dose inhalers. A single administration used a nebulized solution and a single administration indicated as “other” with no additional information provided.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. Please contact Amanda Elliott, Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, at 217-782-6510 or aelliott@isbe.net to obtain additional copies of this report or for more specific information.

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

The Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication, School Year 2021-22

**Illinois State Board of Education
Center for Safe and Healthy Climate
Wellness Department
September 2022**

*Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education*

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	1
Background.....	1
Methodology.....	1
Limitations.....	1
School Year 2021-22 Results.....	2

Foreword

The administration of 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 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 rescue medication.

This report 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 in the 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, 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 train personnel to recognize and respond to a person experiencing respiratory distress. ISBE shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1 every year and publish the report online on the same day of its submission. This report summarizes the data reported to ISBE during the 2021-22 school year.

Methodology

Data collection instruments and procedures used by schools to report data on the use of asthma medication are in accordance with the formal rules process ([Rule 1.540](#)). The 2021-22 data collection was conducted using the [Undesignated Asthma Medication Reporting Form](#) (ISBE 34-22). Schools emailed the completed forms to asthmamed@isbe.net. ISBE staff reviewed the forms and contacted school staff if additional information was needed. Data was then compiled and is presented in this report.

Limitations

The reporting requirement of this Act pertains to the school year 2021-22, which ended June 30, 2022.

- The validity of the data reported is subject to the limitations of email submission of data.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of students, staff, and families prompted some districts to take an adaptive pause for either the full or partial 2021-22 school year.
- The validity of the data reported is subject to accessibility of the reporting email address.

School Year 2021-22 Results

There were 112 reports of administration of undesignated asthma medication during the 2021-22 school year. The earliest date of reported use came on August 26, 2021, with the last occurring on May 24, 2022.

There were 110 administrations of undesignated asthma medication using metered dose inhalers; of which 108 were administered to students and the other two doses were administered to staff members. One student received albuterol via nebulizer. In one instance, pertaining to a student, the name or drug indicated on the report was marked as “other” without specifying the undesignated asthma medication administered.

The students ranged in age from 2.7 to 17 years, with the mean age of 10.14 years and the median age of 9 years. Ninety-five students and one of the two staff members had a known diagnosis of asthma; of those students, 20 had an asthma action plan on file with the school. There were 17 students and one staff member without a diagnosis of asthma.

The undesignated asthma medication was administered 96.43 percent of the time by health professionals (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or health coordinator); 1.79 percent of the time by trained personnel; and once by a parent/staff member, who administered undesignated albuterol to their child. A total of 9.1 percent of the incidents were reported to the student’s health provider and 86.49 percent were not. One parent declined provider notification, and 0.90 percent of the reports contained no response. One student with a history of asthma was sent home and one was sent to the emergency room. Two of the students were eligible for self-carry but forgot their medication at home.

Ten public school districts and one nonpublic special education school reported use of undesignated asthma medication. A Madison County public school district had the greatest number of incidents in which undesignated albuterol was administered. It reported 42 administrations, with 33.3 percent of doses administered in a single elementary school and 3.6 percent administered in a single high school. The second greatest number was from a district in Champaign County, with 32 reported incidents. The data indicated that 6.31 percent of doses administered in a single high school and 0.9 percent administered in a single middle school; 22.52 percent were given in three elementary schools.

Occurrences were more frequent in the morning hours, 62, while 50 happened in the afternoon hours. The earliest reported time was 8:15 a.m. and the latest was 2:39 p.m. Most (88.39 percent) occurred within the school building, 10.71 percent were on school grounds, and one was reported as “other” with no explanation.