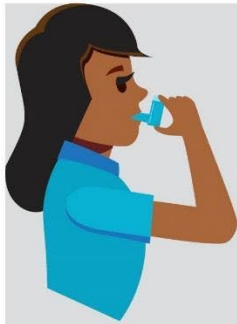


ALGORITHM FOR
Undesignated Stock Albuterol Inhaler Use for
Severe Respiratory Distress

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 vdh.virginia.gov

Severe symptoms of respiratory distress may include one or more of the following:

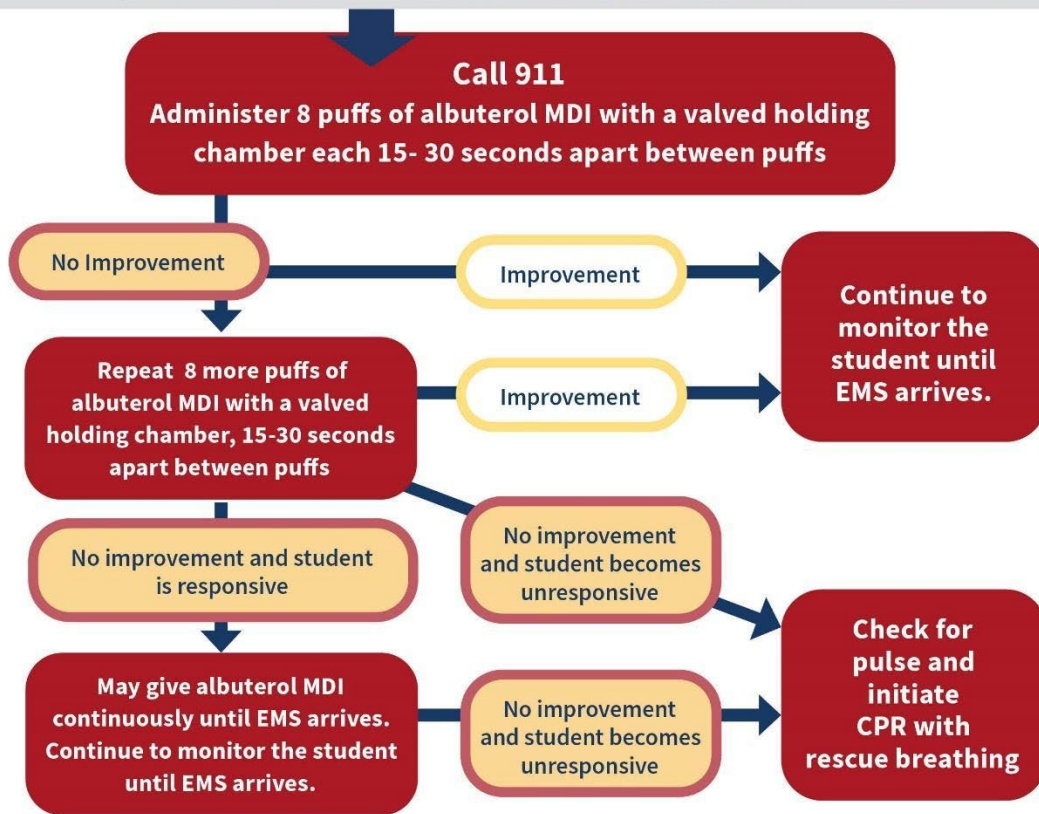


- Struggling to breath and or Shortness of breath and or hunched over (tripod breathing)
- Coughing, wheezing, tightness in the chest
- Difficulty speaking (one word or short sentences)
- Blueness around the lips or fingernails (may look gray or “dusky”)
- Chest retractions (chest/neck are pulling in)
- Use of accessory muscles (stomach muscles are moving up and down)
- Fast pulse (tachycardia)
- Agitation
- Nasal flaring

SEVERE

The student may present with or progress to symptoms of severe respiratory distress. Act quickly as it is safer to give albuterol than to delay treatment

- Call 911 immediately
- Never leave a student alone.
- Have the student sit in a chair or on the ground and restrict physical activity. Encourage slow breaths
- Summon for help, notify parent and school administration and follow your school division protocol.
- If available, Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse should obtain and continue to monitor vital signs (pulse, respiratory rate, blood pressure, pulse oximetry (if available) every 5 minutes or as needed.



Use this algorithm if a student does not have an asthma action plan by their healthcare provider and appears to be having respiratory distress.