#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

"Your Pathway to Asthma Control"



# Asthma Management in the Classroom: What Teachers Need to Know

#### **Developed by Carol V. McGotty, RN, MS**

#### **Produced by**

The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

#### **Sponsored by**



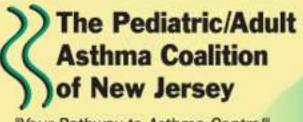


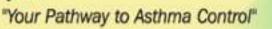
This program has been reviewed and endorsed by the New Jersey State School Nurses Association

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## Why Do We Have to Know About Asthma?

# Because students who have their asthma in good control:



#### **Miss FEWER Days of School**



#### Have an IMPROVED Quality of Life



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#### And are BETTER Learners...



#### You Can Make a Difference!

## New Jersey Law and Asthma

# NJSA 18A:40-12.9 requires annual asthma education opportunities for all teaching staff



#### NJSA 18A:40-12.3 of the state law allows for self-administration of medication by a pupil with asthma under specific conditions



#### Some of your students may be carrying an inhaler and need to use it during your class



# NJSA 18A:40-12.8 calls for a written asthma treatment plan for pupils requiring asthma medication at school

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## Other Laws that Affect Students with Asthma

## **FERPA & Asthma**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows for health information to be shared with teachers and other school officials for "legitimate educational purposes" without written consent in accordance with school policy



Questions from OTHER staff members regarding the health condition of your student should be referred to the school nurse

## **IDEA, Section 504 and Asthma**



The Individual with Disabilities Education ACT (IDEA) and Section 504 require arrangements to be made to include all students, even those with disabilities like asthma, to participate in all the educational experiences



This impacts the type of educational activities you develop for your class, including:

- Field trips
- Outdoor experiences
- Learning about animals
- Using chemicals with strong odors

## NJ Public Employees' Occupational Safety & Health Act (NJPEOSH)

N.J.S.A 34:6A-25 et seq. provides for the development and enforcement of occupational safety standards for public employees throughout the state to encourage employers and employees in their efforts to improve the working environment

## NJ Law & Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

N.J.A.C. 12:100.13 from the NJIAQ Standard covers indoor air quality in existing buildings occupied by public employees. This includes:

- 1. Ventilation
- 2. Microbial contamination
- 3. Remodeling/renovation issues including advance notice

# Use the NJIAQ Standard to improve indoor air quality in your school



### NJ PEOSH Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Designated Persons Training



• The updated NJ Indoor Air Quality Standard N.J.A.C. 12:100-13 now requires public employers to select and train a Designated Person

 NJ PEOSH provides the Designated Persons training and a certificate of attendance

Know who the "IAQ Designated Person" is in your school

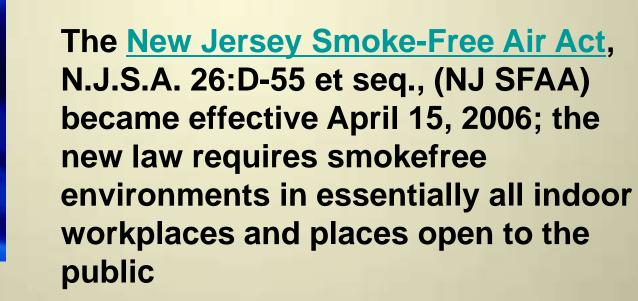
 This free training is now available for anyone who wants to know more about IAQ

#### **NJ DEP No-Idling Pledge**



NJ Law prohibits idling by diesel vehicles (most school buses and large trucks) for more than three minutes

### NJ Law on No Smoking in Public Places



#### **Integrated Pest Management in Schools**

N.J.A.C. 7:30-13 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools outlines an IPM plan for your school in accordance with the NJ Law on Pesticide Control Regulations





#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

"Your Pathway to Asthma Control"



## What is Asthma?

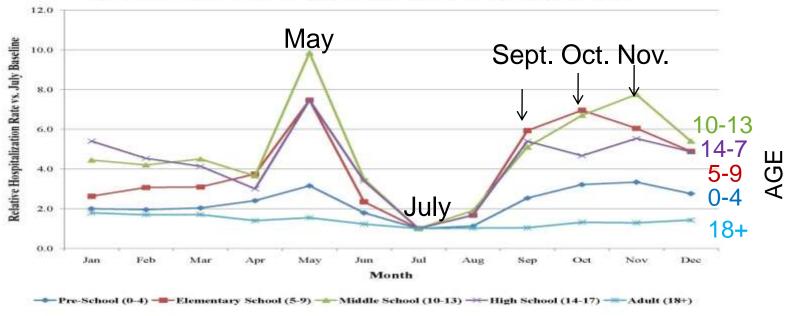
### **ASTHMA**

- IS a long term (chronic) lung disease
- IS triggered by indoor and outdoor allergens and irritants
- CAN'T be cured
- CAN be controlled

## If you have 30 children in a class, you may have at least 3 children with asthma



Combined NJBRFS results from the 2005-2006 NJBRFS indicate that approximately 313,379 children have a history of asthma (14.8%) and that approximately 218,914 children (10.3%) currently have asthma



Seasonal Hospital Discharges for Asthma, New Jersey 2005-2006

"New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Unpublished Data"

The number of overnight hospital stays for asthma is:

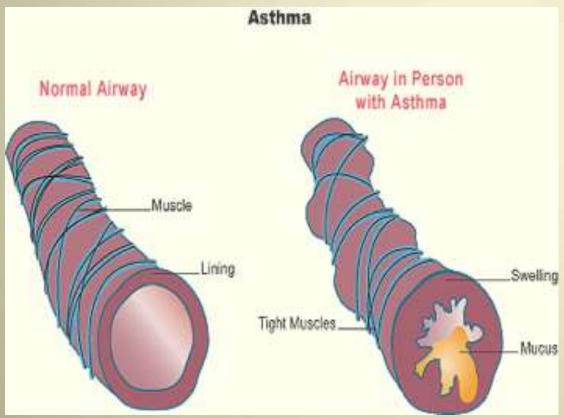
- lowest for all age groups in July
- highest for children in May, September, October
  - and November

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# What Happens During an Asthma Episode (Attack)?

# Asthma affects the airways: the tubes that carry air in and out of the lungs





• Airways become inflamed/swollen

• Muscles tighten around the airways

• Mucus increases, blocking the airway

 Less air can get in and out

# What are the Early Warning Signs of an Asthma Episode?

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Mild wheeze
- Tight chest
- Exposure to a known trigger

### Take action: Contact the school nurse if a student with asthma has any of the early warning signs



# Your School Nurse will direct you according to the specific plan of action for this student



Never send a student to the health room alone or leave a student alone

#### What are the Signs of an Asthma Emergency?

- Chest sucking in/neck muscles bulging
- Difficulty or discomfort when breathing
- Nasal flaring
- Trouble walking and/or talking
- Breathing does not improve or is worse after quick reliever medication is used

### This is an EMERGENCY



#### Initiate your school's "Emergency Response Plan"

**TAKE ACTION:** Call the school nurse

# While You Wait for the School Nurse...



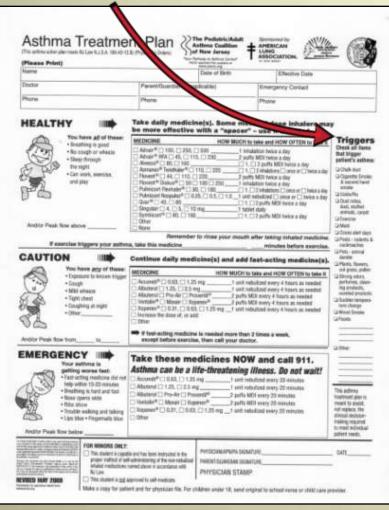
# Be sure the student has self-administered medication if he/she is able to self-medicate



- Limit moving a student who is in severe distress.
   Go to the student instead
- Assist him/her to an upright position away from trigger, if possible
- Provide a calm, reassuring atmosphere and stay with the student
- The student should always be in an adult's presence until medical care arrives

#### Know Your School Policy and Procedure Before You Need It!





Talk to your school nurse at the start of the school year about the Asthma Treatment Plans for your students with asthma

# Help them avoid triggers

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### Be ready! Check with your school nurse to:

Identify the students in your class with asthma

Know their indoor and outdoor triggers

Have a plan of action to respond quickly when you notice the early warning signs

# What Kind of Medications are Given?

Bronchodilators – (Quick Relief)
 These are used to stop an asthma episode (wheezing, coughing) before it gets worse



\*You should begin to see some relief immediately. It will take 15-20 minutes for the full effect. 2. Anti-Inflammatory - (Long Term Control) These are taken daily to control asthma and prevent asthma episodes

\*They take effect over a period of time and are continued even when the person feels well



#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

"Your Pathway to Asthma Control"



## The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey (PACNJ) Asthma Treatment Plan

Asthma Treatment Plan **Patient/Parent Instructions** 

· Paranti/Guardian's name & physics number

. An Emergency Contact person's name & phone number

The PACKJ Authena Treatment Plan is designed to help everyone understand the steps necessary for the individual patient to achieve the goal of controlled asthma.

1. Palianta/Paranta/Boardians: Before taking this form to your Health Care Provider:

Complete the top left section with: · Patient's name · Patient's date of birth

· Patient's doctor's name & phone number

2. Your Health Care Provider will:

)) The Pedlatric/Adult Asthma Coalition

www.pard.org

of New Jersey Pattern to Automa Covers"

Complete the following areas:

- . The effective date of this plan
- . The medicine information for the Healthy, Caution and Emergency sections
- . Your Health Care Provisier will check the box next to the medication and check how much and how often to take it · Your Health Care Provider may check "OTHER" and
  - · Write is authors medications not listed on the form

  - + Write is additional medications that will control year authena + Write is generic medications in place of the name brand on the form
- . Together you and your Health Care Provider will decide what actives treatment is best for you or your child to follow.

#### 3. Patients/Parents/Guardians & Health Care Providers together:

Discuss and then complete the tolkrwing amount

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4. Parenta/Gaurdiane: After completing the farm with your Health Care Provider.

Make copies of the Asthma Treatmant Plan and give the signed original to your shiel's school nonze or child care provider · Keep a copy easily available at horse to help manage your child's atthrea · Give copies of the Apthona Treatment Plan to everyone who provides care for year child, for example, tabyoffers, before/after echard program staff, coaches, scool leaders

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ASSOCIATION. Your school nurse has a 24-hour written asthma treatment plan for students with asthma, completed by their health care providers

#### www.pacnj.org



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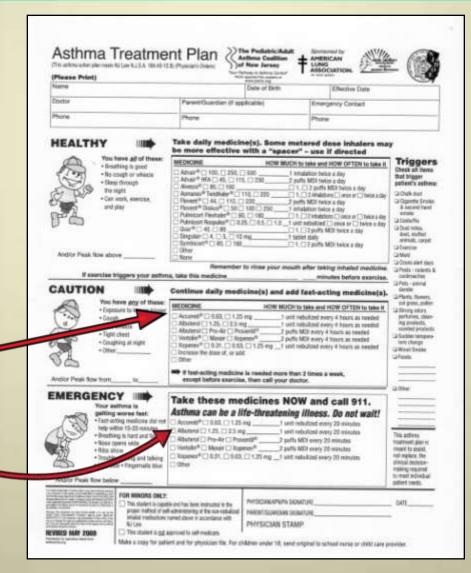
#### It identifies the student's specific triggers

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And it indicates what medicines the student should take when his/her asthma is getting worse, and what to do in an emergency



#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

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## What are "Triggers"?

#### Triggers are things that can make asthma worse and cause an asthma episode

Each person has different triggers, but there are common asthma triggers that a teacher can address to make the classroom healthier for all

Avoiding asthma triggers is an important step in controlling asthma

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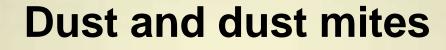
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## Common Asthma Triggers in the Classroom

# Allergens







# Furry and feathered animals like cats, dogs, gerbils, guinea pigs and birds



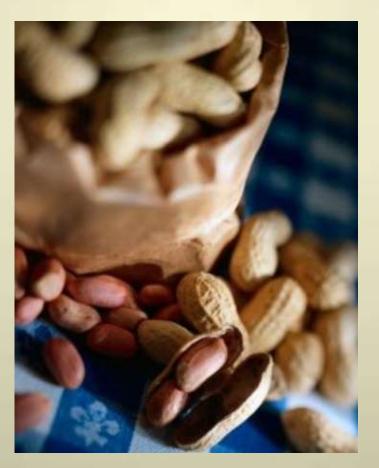
### Mold and mildew



### Pests, like cockroaches and mice



## **Food allergies**



### **Indoor Air Quality Triggers**

### **Strong odors or fragrances**









# Temperature and humidity problems



### **Tobacco smoke**

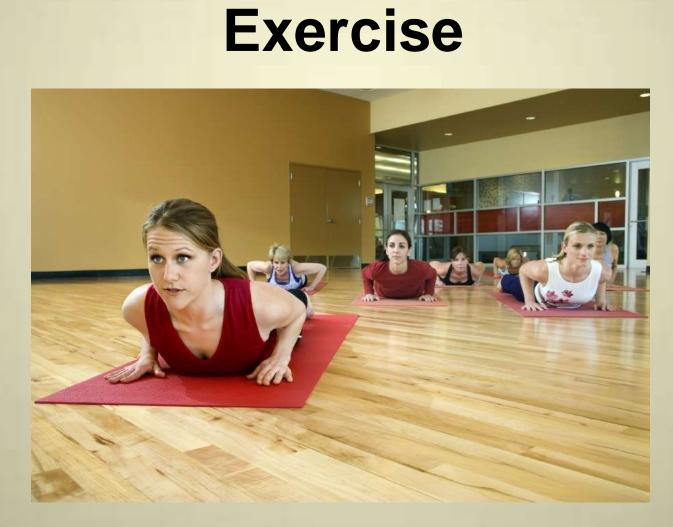


## **Other Triggers**

## **Respiratory illness or infection**







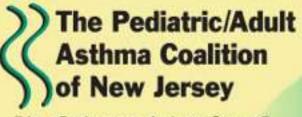
### **Sports or physical education**



### Strong physical expressions of feelings







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# What Can a Teacher do to Control Exposure to Classroom Triggers?

# Reduce exposure to dust and dust mites





Reduce classroom clutter - stacks of books, paper, and cardboard boxes

Utilize covered bins for classroom materials to make cleaning easier

Avoid area rugs, upholstered furniture and plants which are reservoirs for dust, mold and other allergens

# Avoid furry or feathered pets in the classroom



### Pet dander, saliva, feathers, pet feces and urine all contain the allergens that can trigger asthma and skin rashes

### These allergens are transported to other rooms through the school's ventilation system and cannot be isolated to one room



### Identify other ways to bring in educational experiences with animals that limit exposure to pet allergens



## Check your district/school policy regarding live animals in the classroom



# Report leaks, odors, and mold problems



# Know the protocol for reporting problems in your building



Follow your school policy to report leaks, odors, mold, or other environmental conditions to your building administrators and your maintenance staff

### Clean up small spills promptly and report large spills to maintenance staff



### **Know your IAQ Designated Person**



## Follow Procedures to Reduce Pest Infestation



### Minimize eating in the classroom

Food stored in the classroom should be in sealed containers Clean up crumbs promptly See that food waste is removed daily



### Do not spray pesticides

Report pest problems to maintenance staff so they can implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies



#### www.pacnj.org

## What is IPM?



### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the use of pest control methods that minimize hazards to people, property, and the environment



IPM is a safer, less costly option for effective pest management

An informative web page on the New Jersey School IPM Program can be viewed online at: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcpipm.htm

#### To learn more about IPM go to: www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/ipm.htm

#### Follow your school IPM plan



# supplies

**Use low-odor instructional** 



Be aware that strong odors from art projects, science projects, markers and other instructional tools can trigger asthma





Use supplies and products that are non-toxic, district approved, and have an MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) on file if required

## Eliminate chemical fumes and fragrances



#### Avoid use of aerosol products, "air fresheners" and personal care products



 Use only products that are district/school approved for use and be sure there is an MSDS on file if required

• Be aware that aerosols and strong odors can trigger breathing problems in, and rashes on sensitive individuals

# Go "Green" - use approved natural cleaning products



# Do not bring in your own cleaning materials



Low odor and low toxicity cleaning supplies should be provided by your school in compliance with your IAQ program 96

## Control temperature and humidity



## Keep air vents clear of furniture, piles of books or other stored items



Follow the NJIAQ Standard Guidelines on acceptable room temperature and humidity levels

# Prevent allergic food reactions



# Consult with your school nurse early in the school year regarding foods that trigger life-threatening food allergies and asthma in students



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## Common Outdoor Asthma Triggers

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### Exercise

# Pollen, ozone, and irritants such as pollution and exhaust fumes

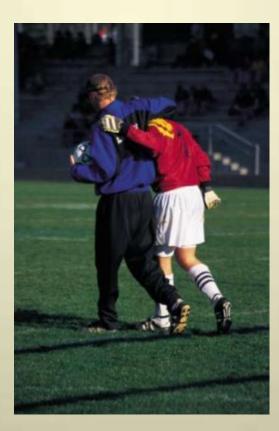




### Weather changes



# Although exercise and outdoor activities are strongly encouraged...



### For students with asthma:



Check with your school nurse to determine what the health care provider recommended on the student's Asthma Treatment Plan regarding exercise and physical activity

Some students may need to take asthma medication prior to exercise

### Reduce exposure to pollen, ozone, and other irritants



1. Before planning an outdoor activity check the Air Quality Index for your geographic area

2. Try to plan an alternate indoor activity if the air quality is poor for the day



## Where Do I Find the Air Quality Index(AQI) Information?



#### www.njaqinow.net

**Index Legend** 

Green-Good Yellow-Moderate Orange-Unhealthy For Sensitive Groups Red-Unhealthy Maroon-Very Unhealthy Dark Brown-Hazardous Gray-No Index Data

All students, especially those with asthma, need to limit time outdoors on:

High ozone days

High pollen count days

Hot and humid days

Cold, windy days

## Hot temperature and humidity

Hot, humid air and wet weather encourage the growth of mold spores

In certain areas, heat and sunlight combine with pollutants to create ground-level ozone



## Cold dry air

Cold dry air irritates airways and can quickly cause severe symptoms.

People with exercise-induced asthma who participate in winter sports are especially susceptible.

Dry, windy weather can stir up pollen and mold.



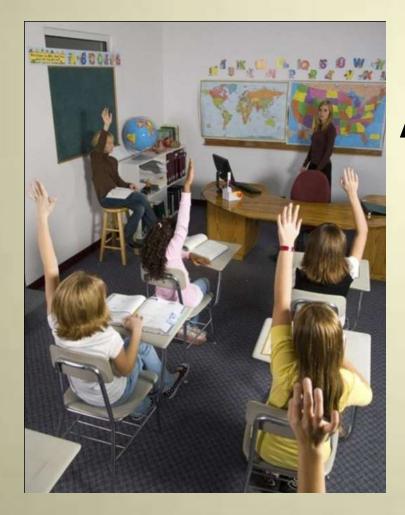
# What about planning a party or a field trip?



Both state and federal laws require accommodations to be made so all students, even those with disabilities like asthma, can participate in all the educational experiences

Talk with your school nurse to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Law and the Federal Laws

Work with your school nurse when planning parties and field trips



### Avoiding asthma triggers is an important step to controlling asthma

# How can I remember all of these recommendations?



## The Pediatric Adult/Asthma Coalition of NJ makes it easy to remember

These recommendations are summarized on their "Kids Learn Better in a Clean and Healthy School" Top Ten List



## And See the "Top Ten List" for Administrators and Maintenance Staff



#### KIDS LEARN BETTER IN A CLEAN & HEALTHY SCHOOL

#### TOP TEN LIST for WHAT ADMINISTRATORS CAN DO:

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- ABOULANLY REVIEW ALL PROCEDURES regarding health and advert with district and school curtodial staff.
- PERSONNELLY TOOR TOOR SUILLING with maintenance personnel to sheatify potential health and safety problems.
- INTERVICE A PROCEED TO SERVORE to contrastent and bashin concerns in a theory manner.
- STRUCTURE OF A PLAN TO CONDUCTION THE any trapertant leads and safety tenues to purvets and the public.
- EDPPORT & BOROOL HEALTH AND BAPPETY COMMONTRE that includes pror school nurves and representatives of maintenance mail, isosperio and persons.
- EVALUATE THE LEAD EXPLOSIBLE POTENTIAL of your school including sources with so paint, water, not and dust.
- PROMINET SUB DUING adjacent to adjaced buildings to prevent dised former from extering buildings or affecting children on school sche walks.
- GOMPS Y WITH NEW JEARNY STATE REGULATIONS POR. \* Refs to Energy lowing (N-RA D4 5A-18)
- \* Bados teeting (N-IIA 15A.20-40) \* Fest Management (N-IAC 7:50-18)
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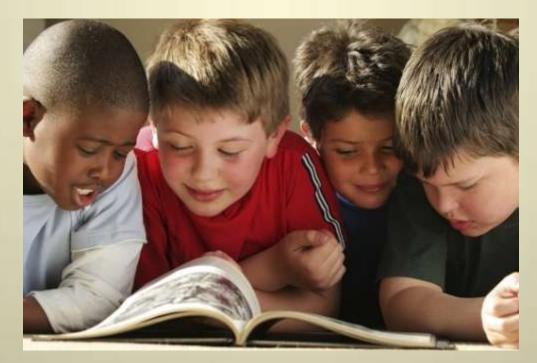
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#### All 3 are available from the PACNJ website at

http://www.pacnj.org/schools.html

# When a student's asthma is well controlled, the student...



- Participates in all activities
- Is not constantly coughing
- Has minimal side effects from medications
- Uses a quick reliever medication no more than 2 times per week, unless needed before exercise
- Has no hospitalizations or emergency room visits due to asthma

# Promote a total healthy school environment



### Serve on your school's indoor air quality team to develop a regular program that promotes a healthy school environment



## Are you ready? Have you checked with your school nurse to...



1. Identify the students in your class with asthma?

2. Discuss their asthma triggers?

3. Develop a plan of action to respond quickly when you notice the early warning signs?

#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

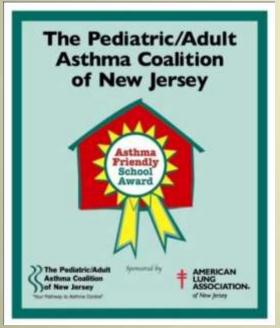
"Your Pathway to Asthma Control"



# PACNJ Asthma Friendly School Award

By participating in this training, you have helped your school meet one of the *Six Steps for Success* to qualify for the PACNJ Asthma Friendly School Award





### **Other criteria include:**

- Asthma management training for school nurses
- An Indoor Air Quality team in each school
- School administration signs a NJDEP no-idling pledge for school buses:

http://www.stopthesoot.org/sts-pledge.htm

#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

"Your Pathway to Asthma Control"



## Remember...

## Asthma

IS a long term (chronic) lung disease

IS triggered by indoor and outdoor allergens and irritants

**CAN'T** be cured

**CAN be controlled** 



#### The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey

"Your Pathway to Asthma Control"



## **Resources for More Information**

#### •PACNJ Website (www.pacnj.org) for:

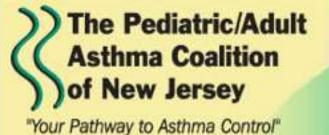
-Asthma Treatment Plan and Patient/Parent Instructions -Kids Learn in a Clean and Healthy School and Top Ten Lists for Teachers, Administrators and Maintenance Staff -Top Ten Cards for Controlling Asthma Triggers in the Home

National Asthma Education and Prevention Program
 -NAEPP School Asthma Education Subcommittee & NASN
 -Is the Asthma Action Plan Working?
 -A tool for school nurse assessment

www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/asth act plan frm.pdf

Reilly, D. NASN. Managing Asthma Triggers: Keeping Students Healthy: Air Quality Issues (an NASN training program for school nurses)

U.S. Department of Education & U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008. Joint Guidance on the Application of the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 to Student Health Records, (4)





## Go To These Websites For More Information on Asthma

#### www.aanma.org

www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/ipm.htm

www.epa.gov/iaq (Tools for School)

www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/bulletins.html (Electronic bulletins and updates on (IAQ)

www.healthyschools.org

www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/asthma/index.shtml

www.pacnj.org

### **Disclaimers**

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Information in this publication is not intended to diagnose health problems or take the place of medical advice. For asthma or any medical condition, seek medical advice from your child's or your health care professional.

## **Disclaimers Continued**

Information in this presentation is not intended to diagnose health problems or take the place of medical advice.

This program does not represent a certification program in asthma management in the class room, but is designed to present guidelines for school personnel in New Jersey. The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New, the American Lung Association in New Jersey and all parties to or associated with the production of this program, disclaims any responsibility for any action taken by viewers as a result of their interpretations of information provided. This program was developed by Carol McGotty, RN, MS

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Some pictures taken from the PACNJ video, "Steps to Controlling Asthma in the Child Care Setting."

Lung graphic on slide 32 taken from the NHLBI/NAEEP program, *Asthma Basics for Schools, PowerPoint*®

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