

Airway Guideline

Assessment

- Are they having trouble breathing?
- Respiratory rate
- Use of accessory muscles, shoulder shrugging, nasal flaring, purse lip breathing, frequent cough?
- Can they talk, speak in full sentences, can they swallow?
- Color: are they pale, any cyanosis?
- What are lung sounds?
- Do they have a respiratory history such as asthma?
- What were they doing when this started, was there an allergen exposure?
- Recent illness, do they have a fever or other symptoms?
- Does it hurt to take a deep breath or does that make them cough?

Recommendations

- Asthma history and have an inhaler at school: administer inhaler, rest, cold drink, slow/deep breathing. Monitor and reassess for symptom resolution prior to sending back to class.
 - Notify parent of inhaler use via phone call or note sent home.
- Allergen exposure: anaphylaxis? Administer epi pen if needed.
- Illness: fever over 100.0 call parent and send home.
- No fever, use nursing judgment based on assessment findings.
 - Consider allowing rest, drink of cold water, deep breathing techniques.