

Rescue Equipment Update

In a Position Statement on Preparing for School Emergencies, the National Association of School Nurses (www.nasn.org) lists three medications that are minimal emergency equipment for schools that employ a school nurse: Albuterol, Epinephrine pen, and oxygen. The benefits of having portable oxygen are numerous, particularly with asthmatics and people in cardiac or respiratory distress. State laws vary on how to obtain and administrate medications, including oxygen.

One piece of associated equipment many programs overlook is a suction device to aspirate vomit. Handheld suction devices are relatively inexpensive and easy to use, but you should also make sure your CPR courses cover this device.

We are likely to see portable oxygen and suction devices appear at more areas around the school such as swimming pools and athletic areas. Talk with your school nurse or health official and discuss how these changes affect your school and how to best manage these changes.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.