



Kimberly J. Schneider, Ed. D.
Superintendent

October 9, 2020

Dear MCSSSD Parents/Guardians:

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many difficult situations, not the least of which is protecting ourselves, our family, our friends, and those around us. Treating children with asthma presents a unique situation and I am writing to you to not only ask your understanding but your cooperation.

You probably already know that this virus is mostly spread by droplet transfer as well as by contact with surfaces that have been contaminated. The use of an electric nebulizer presents a unique situation due to the very small particle size that is delivered to the lungs of the individual being treated but an overflow both from the nebulizer and out of the mouth of that individual. These particles remain in the air for up to two hours. Since up 43-50% of individuals can be asymptomatic carriers, treatment with a nebulizer not only presents a threat to the individual providing the treatment but anyone entering the room within the next two hours.

I want you to know that we would never deny your child an optimal treatment for an acute asthma attack, but that there is a first step that we can do to protect your child, our staff, and other children. Fortunately, this step is easy and not expensive.

My nursing staff and I are asking that you immediately contact your doctor, get a prescription for a metered dose inhaler which you may know under the name of Albuterol, Ventolin, or Xopenex, and provide this metered dose inhaler with a spacer device to our nursing staff to use for your child when needed. I can assure you, if this medication delivery method does not prove to be sufficient, we will use the electric nebulizer for his/her treatment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this endeavor.

David N. Sharlin, DO, FAAP
Developmental Pediatrics
Medical Director Mercer County Special Services School District