



A Public Health Response to Asthma

You are a teacher. If you were faced with one of the following situations at schools what would you do?

- ◆ You find a child in a stairwell who is wheezing and gasping for air. He can't speak to tell you what is wrong.
- ◆ Your student admits she lost her inhaler and says she needs her medicine right now.
- ◆ In gym class two older boys are teasing a child who has asthma because he cannot keep up on the run.

You work in a local health department. The new state health commissioner has issued a memorandum making asthma a top “chronic disease priority.” You are tasked with writing a plan to address this disease in your community, but no new funds are available to support the effort.

As an emergency room nurse, you know that more and more people are coming to the ER for treatment for acute asthma attacks. You wonder how this trend can be reversed.

Asthma in the United States:

- ◆ Costs over \$10 billion dollars a year in direct and indirect medical expenses.
- ◆ Affects an estimated 15 million people, one third of whom are children.
- ◆ Kills about 5,000 people a year, and most of these deaths can be prevented.

What is needed?

A public health response to asthma.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), announces a live interactive satellite broadcast training opportunity. “A Public Health Response to Asthma” will be on May 17, 2001, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. eastern daylight time, and is produced by the Public Health Training Network. A question and answer session will enable participants nationwide to pose questions to course instructors by toll-free telephone or fax lines.

This broadcast will bring together experts in asthma physiology, prevention, surveillance, coalition building, and school interventions.



Speakers will include:

Dr. Stephen Redd, Chief, Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch, NCEH, CDC

Ms. Sarah Lyon-Callo, Asthma Surveillance Coordinator, Michigan Department of Community Health

Ms. Bobbie O'Neil, Executive Director, Arizona Asthma Coalition

Dr. Lani Wheeler, Pediatric and School Health Consultant, Ann Arundel County, Maryland, Department of Health

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- ◆ Describe the burden of asthma in the United States and explain the urgency for the public health system to address it.
- ◆ Identify at least three elements of an effective asthma surveillance program.
- ◆ List at least two potential barriers to implementing an asthma management program and how to overcome them.
- ◆ State the purpose of coalitions in asthma programs and identify one or more potential partners.
- ◆ Describe resources available to assist school districts in implementing asthma education programs.

Who should tune in?

State and local health agency officials, health educators, epidemiologists, environmental health specialists, school health officials and nurses, respiratory therapists, insurance company and managed care personnel, pharmacists, public health students, staff of non-profit asthma organizations and members of coalitions, and physicians and others who work with asthma.

Registration and Participation

Registration will begin on February 19, 2001. You can register for the program two ways:

Through the Internet:

Go to the Satellite Broadcast Web Page at: www.cdc.gov/phtn/asthma.

You can register your site or look for participating sites in your area and register as a participant. We encourage on-line registration.

By Fax: Call 1-888-232-3299. (TTY 887-232-1010)

Request document #130021, and dial in your fax number. A registration form will be sent to you to fax back to the Registrar.

There is no charge for the satellite broadcast. However, some viewing sites may charge a fee to see the program at their facility.

The broadcast will be closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Continuing education credits

Continuing education credits will be offered for various professions based on two and one half hours of instruction. (CME, CNE, CEU, ApHA)

Need more information?

Visit www.cdc.gov/phtn/asthma

OR

E-mail questions to cdc-asthma@cdc.gov

OR

call 404-639-2551 or 2595

Who are the sponsors?

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, and Public Health Practice Program Office; the Public Health Training Network; and the American Pharmaceutical Association.

