

## May 2024 Newsletter

#### Hey there! May is Asthma Awareness Month!

This month we would like to talk about something that affects many of us: Asthma. With spring in full swing, you may notice some changes.

#### What is asthma?

Asthma is a breathing condition that can make it hard to breathe. With asthma airways can get swollen and narrow making it difficult to get air into our lungs.

#### Stay active and stay healthy!

Having asthma does not mean you can't be active. Regular exercise can improve your lung function and overall health!

#### **Empower Yourself**

Please take this opportunity to learn more about your asthma. Grow your support system, join an asthma community, and talk with your friends and family about your asthma. Empower yourself because an empowered you is a better you!



# Signs and Symptoms of Asthma



Coughing



Wheezing



Chest Tightness



Shortness of Breath

Many people of all ages are living with asthma.

You are not defined by your asthma.

You are not alone.

We are here to support you.



### Asthma Information and Action Plan

Follow your plan Know your to keep your triggers so you symptoms under can breathe Learn your Triggers Treatment Plan control. easier. • Learn about your Dust medications Pollen • Know when and how to Mold take your medications Smoke • If your asthma symptoms Exercise are not under control, ask your doctor about other Stress treatment plans **Air Quality Exercise** • Exercise away from roads • Reduce time outside when or highways the air quality is bad • Use inhalers before • Plan outdoor activities for exercising the morning or evening • Try aerobic exercises like • Monitor the air quality with walking and swimming the Conversio Health app • Gardening and chair aerobics are great too **Asthma Action Plan** 

Ozone (smog) and particles (haze, dust & smoke) affect air quality.

- Learn about your symptoms
- We attached an asthma action plan from the American Lung Association



Make sure to

warm up and cool down when you exercise.

#### Do you have any questions for our care team?





Call Conversio Health at: 866-239-3784 Hours of Operations: 6:00 am to 5:00 pm Pacific Time Scan the QR code to download the Conversio Health app.





Provider:  American Lung Association.	My Asthma Action Plan
Severity Classification:	DOB:/
Green Zone: Doing Well	
	od – No cough or wheeze – Can work and play – Sleeps well at night eter (more than 80% of personal best)
Flu Vaccine—Date receive Control Medicine(s)	d: Next flu vaccine due: COVID19 vaccine—Date received:  Medicine How much to take When and how often to take it
Physical Activity	$\Box$ Use Albuterol/Levalbuterol puffs, 15 minutes before activity $\Box$ with all activity $\Box$ when you feel you need it
Yellow Zone: Caution	
	s breathing – Cough, wheeze, or tight chest – Problems working or playing – Wake at night eter to (between 50% and 79% of personal best)
Quick-relief Medicine(s) Control Medicine(s)	□ Albuterol/Levalbuterol puffs, every 20 minutes for up to 4 hours as needed □ Continue Green Zone medicines □ Add □ Change to
	in 20-60 minutes of the quick-relief treatment. If you are getting worse or are in the 24 hours, THEN follow the instructions in the RED ZONE and call the doctor right away!
Red Zone: Get Help Nov	w!
Symptoms: Lots of problems breathing – Cannot work or play – Getting worse instead of better – Medicine is not helping  Peak Flow Meter (less than 50% of personal best)	
	NOW! Albuterol/Levalbuterol puffs, (how frequently)  following danger signs are present:  • Trouble walking/talking due to shortness of breath  • Lips or fingernails are blue

Emergency Contact Name

Date: \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_/ \_\_

• Still in the Red Zone after 15 minutes

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_



# How to Use a Metered-Dose Inhaler with a Valved Holding Chamber (Spacer)

**Prime a brand-new inhaler:** Before using it for the first time, if you have not used it for more than 7 days, or if it has been dropped.



Shake inhaler 10 seconds.



 Take the cap off the inhaler and valved holding chamber. Make sure the mouthpiece and valved holding chamber are clean and there is nothing inside the mouthpieces.



3. Put inhaler into the chamber/spacer.



4. Breathe out away from the device.



5. Put chamber mouthpiece in mouth.



6. Press inhaler once and breathe in deep and steadily.



7. Hold your breath for 10 seconds, then breathe out slowly.

If you need another puff of medicine, wait 1 minute and repeat steps 4-7.



8. Rinse with water and spit it out.

Proper inhalation technique is important when taking your asthma medicine(s) and monitoring your breathing. Make sure to bring all your medicines and devices to each visit with your primary care provider or pharmacist to check for correct use, or if you have trouble using them.

For more videos, handouts, tutorials and resources, visit Lung.org.

Scan the QR Code to access How-To Videos



You can also connect with a respiratory therapist for one-on-one, free support from the American Lung Association's Lung HelpLine at 1-800-LUNGUSA.