

**Antelope Valley Union High School District  
Oxygen Administration**

Revised 2008

<p><b>Oxygen Administration</b> Oxygen is given to relieve low blood oxygen (hypoxia) to the tissues of the body.</p>	
<p><b>This procedure <i>always</i> requires a physician order and training by the District Nurse</b></p>	
<p><b>Why is oxygen needed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate respirations due to a medical disease or condition</li> <li>• Blocked airway</li> <li>• Inadequate exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the lungs due to a medical condition or disease</li> </ul>	<p><b>What are the signs for determining the need for oxygen administration?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue or bluish color or extremely pale lips, nails, and / or mucous membranes</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing or inability to speak and breathe</li> <li>• Breaths below 10 or above 30 breaths per minute</li> <li>• Restlessness, unusual irritability, anxiety, confusion, or decrease in alertness</li> <li>• Straining the muscles at the neck to try to get more oxygen into the lungs</li> <li>• Nostrils that open wide to allow more air to enter</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supplies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxygen cylinders</li> <li>• Flow meter and humidifier</li> <li>• Sterile water</li> <li>• Nasal cannula / mask</li> <li>• Tubing</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is important to know about oxygen?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is odorless and unable to be seen</li> <li>• DO NOT permit smoking, flames, heaters, motorized equipment, or cooking while oxygen is in use as it may cause a fire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Daily Equipment Procedure Check</b> Check that valves, regulators, and flow meter are functioning properly. Check that the connections are secured tightly. Verify that the tank has sufficient oxygen. Keep nasal cannula, mask and tubing in good working condition and available for easy use. Document the daily equipment check on the Student Log form.</p>	
<p><b>Oxygen Administration Procedure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Read and follow the physician orders. Wash hands before assembling supplies.</li> <li>□ Perform rescue breathing techniques, as needed, to determine a clear airway.</li> <li>□ ALWAYS post a sign specifying "OXYGEN IN USE: NO SMOKING, NO FLAMES".</li> <li>□ Move student to an area away from heaters, motorized equipment, flames, or cooking.</li> <li>□ Fill the humidifier with sterile water, attach the tubing to oxygen, and connect the mask or cannula.</li> <li>□ Turn the main oxygen valve to the prescribed flow rate and never change the rate of flow.</li> <li>□ Determine that the nasal cannula or mask fits properly and is flowing well.</li> <li>□ Always stay with the student and watch for signs of continued breathing problems (see below), calling 9-1-1 if they are not resolved. Use the student's pulse oximeter, if ordered.</li> <li>□ Discontinue oxygen when breathing efforts and alertness improve significantly enough to return to regular school activities. Turn off tank according to manufacturer's directions.</li> <li>□ Report signs of low blood oxygen (as listed above) to a District Nurse or 9-1-1.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>When do I call 911?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue or bluish color or extremely pale lips, nails, and / or mucous membranes</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing or inability to speak and breathe</li> <li>• Breaths below 10 or above 30 breaths per minute</li> <li>• Restlessness, unusual irritability, anxiety, confusion, or decrease in alertness</li> <li>• Two or more of the above signs</li> </ul>	<p><b>What do I do if student is riding the school bus?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify the bus driver immediately</li> <li>• The District Nurse can make arrangements for oxygen use on the bus in the future if there is known or suspected need for it</li> </ul>