

# Signs of an Asthma Emergency

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## **SEEK EMERGENCY CARE IF A CHILD EXPERIENCES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- !!** Child's wheezing or coughing does not improve after taking medicine (15-20 minutes for most asthma medications)
- !!** Child's chest or neck is pulling in while struggling to breathe
- !!** Child has trouble walking or talking
- !!** Child stops playing and can not start again
- !!** Child's fingernails and/or lips turn blue or gray
- !!** Skin between child's ribs sucks in when breathing

**Asthma is different for every person.** The "Asthma Emergency Signs" above represent general emergency situations as per the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program 1997 Expert Panel Report.

If you are at all uncertain of what to do in case of a breathing emergency...

**Call 911 and the child's parent/guardian**