Breathing Easier At Home
A Reasonable Accommodation Request Checklist for Tenants with Asthma

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a federal civil rights law, requires public agencies like NYCHA to guarantee that individuals with disabilities have full access to and equal enjoyment of all facilities. Asthma is a disability under the ADA. That means if you or other tenants in your apartment have been diagnosed with asthma, you have the right to request a reasonable accommodation from NYCHA at any time. NYCHA must decide whether to grant your request within 5 calendar days. Your request is more likely to be successful if it follows these guidelines.

Making a Reasonable Accommodation Request

☐ Make your request in writing. NYCHA has forms available online, but they are not required.
☐ Submit your written request to NYCHA’s Public Housing Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator (PHRAC), your housing development’s management office, or the Department of Equal Opportunity - Services for People with Disabilities Unit.
☐ Include medical documentation of your asthma with the request, especially a doctor’s letter.

Supporting Your Request with a Doctor’s Letter

You will need a letter from your doctor supporting your Reasonable Accommodation Request. Ask your doctor to include the following things in her letter documenting your asthma:

☐ How long you have been a patient and when you were first diagnosed with asthma.
☐ How your asthma negatively affects your day-to-day life (coughing, shortness of breath, emergency room visits, having to miss work or school).
☐ That she is aware of the mold or moisture problem in your apartment and whether it’s likely affecting your asthma symptoms.
☐ Whether ongoing exposure to the mold or moisture problem in your apartment will create more health problems for you in the future.

Requesting an Accommodation for Your Asthma

NYCHA-recognized accommodation options you might be entitled to:

- The right to purchase and operate an additional air conditioning unit in your apartment
- Temporary relocation while NYCHA fixes your apartment’s mold or moisture problem
- Use of low-toxicity fungicides to cover surfaces with mold
- Use of dust suppression methods like double bagging and High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum cleaning during and after mold or moisture removal
- Permanent relocation to other NYCHA housing if your apartment is uninhabitable

Other accommodations that might be appropriate for asthma include:

- A fast-track timeline to get your mold and moisture work order resolved by NYCHA
- Air quality testing after NYCHA fixes your apartment’s mold and moisture problem
- The right to purchase and operate a dehumidifier in your apartment
- The right to purchase and operate a HEPA filter in your apartment