



KI PRE-DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

There are five nuclear power plant sites in Pennsylvania (Beaver Valley Power Station, Limerick Generating Station, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station). Evacuation from the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) is the best protection against radiation exposure due to an accidental release of radioactive iodine. Taking KI will offer supplemental protection against thyroid disease, including cancer of the thyroid, if the KI is ingested before or within several hours after exposure to radioactive iodine. It is important to recognize that children are much more sensitive to the ill effects of radioactive iodine than are adults. It is also important to recognize that KI should be taken only when instructed to do so by the Governor or public health officials.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for administering the program and pre-distributing the tablets. Consistent with the recommendations of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, DOH has developed a two-pronged approach to pre-distribute KI. First, we will be pre-distributing KI from several locations within each EPZ to people who voluntarily elect to receive KI tablets and keep them at home for future consumption. Second, we are soliciting schools, major employers and other large organizations within each EPZ to identify those facilities that consent to receive and store inventories of KI and to administer KI to their students, employees or staff should that be recommended in the future.

Schools/school districts choosing to participate in the KI pre-distribution program will find the following information helpful:

Enclosure II - Potassium Iodide Fact Sheet

This fact sheet provides additional information about nuclear power plants and KI tablets, including frequently asked questions and answers.

Enclosure III - Potassium Iodide (KI) Participation Request and Agreement for Schools

Schools/school districts who wish to participate in the KI pre-distribution program must complete and mail the Participation Request and Agreement to the address noted at the bottom of the form. The application will be reviewed and verified by the Department's School KI Program Coordinator located in our North Central District Office. KI tablets will be dispersed to eligible schools/school districts through the Department's District

Offices or State Health Centers, who will be contacting you to make the final arrangements for pick-up or delivery.

Note: Participation Request/Agreements can be immediately submitted to the Department for processing. However, at this time, the Department does not have a firm delivery date of its supply of KI tablets from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Therefore, there may be a delay from the time we process your request and when you are contacted for pick-up or delivery of your supply of tablets.

Enclosure IV – **Sample Parent/Guardian Consent Letter**

Parent/guardian consent must be obtained for every student who plans to participate in the program. Every parent/guardian should receive information regarding the KI pre-distribution program, and be given the opportunity to consent for their child to participate. If possible, consents should be obtained at the start of the school year; this can be accomplished through your normal start-of-the-year information packet sent home to parents/guardians. Consents must be renewed annually.

Enclosure V – **Information for School Physician’s Standing Order**

A standing order from the school physician that authorizes the administration of KI tablets in school must be obtained. This order must be renewed annually. See Enclosure V for more details.

For schools/school districts who participated in the KI pre-distribution program in 2002, please **NOTE** that there has been a change in the tablet dosage for the 2009 program. Tablets are now in doses of 65 mg rather than 130 mg, eliminating the need to break them in half for students. In the event of the need to take KI, each student is to receive one 65 mg tablet, and each staff person is to receive two 65 mg tablets.

Enclosure VI – **KI Label for Storage Container**

This KI label should be attached to every KI tablet storage container that the school maintains. See Enclosure VI for details.

Enclosure VII – **Options for KI Administration**

The Department is providing two options (Homeroom or Central Site) for schools to utilize in administering KI tablets to students and staff in the event of an accidental release of radioactive iodine. See Enclosure VII for details on these two options. Schools may also choose to develop their own plan for administering the tablets prior to evacuation.

Enclosure VIII – **KI Storage and Handling**

To preserve the integrity of the KI tablets, they should be properly stored according to the guidance in Enclosure VIII. Proper handling of the tablets will also insure that they are readily available should the need arise.