

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

August 14, 2009

Dear Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is again making potassium iodide tablets available free-of-charge to people who live or work within an area comprising a ten-mile radius from the site of a nuclear power plant called an Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). As was done in 2002, schools/school districts are included as part of this initiative. Acceptance and storage of inventories of potassium iodide, commonly called KI ("kay-eye") to administer to students and staff is voluntary.

The Department of Health is providing this resource packet to schools/school districts located within each of the five Emergency Planning Zones. Because there are numerous logistical issues to be considered in developing a school KI pre-distribution plan, schools/school districts who have participated in the past or who may be considering participation now will find this packet useful. Each school/school district is asked to review the materials in this packet, establish a KI planning team (including a certified school nurse and an administrator) and make recommendations to the school administration for local implementation. The resource packet, including Frequently Asked Questions, can also be accessed at: <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?A=180&Q=244422>

For those schools planning to participate, please note that although Participation Request/Agreements can be immediately submitted to the Department for processing, we do not have a firm delivery date of our supply of KI tablets from the CDC. 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.

If you have any questions, please submit an e-mail to c-paschool@state.pa.us or contact Jon Dale, Director, Division of School Health at 717 787-2390.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health and emergency preparedness initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Huff".

Michael K. Huff, RN

Enclosure