

## School Potassium Iodide (KI) Distribution Plan Information

As part of its overall Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism plan, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has implemented a Potassium Iodide (KI) distribution program for its citizenry.

The Food and Drug Administration of the United States along with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recommended that individuals, who are at risk of exposure to radioactive iodine that may be released from a nuclear power plant in the event of an accident or act of terrorism, ingest a tablet of KI either before or within several hours after exposure as a prophylaxis against thyroid disease, including cancer of the thyroid.

Although evacuation is the best protective action in a radiation emergency, ingestion of KI is an additional measure that can be taken.

Distribution of KI tablets through schools and school systems is given high priority for the reason that children are much more sensitive to the ill effects of radioactive iodine than are adults. In accordance with the Governor's acceptance of potassium iodide from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, distribution will involve the schools (public, charter, vocational-technical, intermediate units, private and parochial) that are located within the ten (10) mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the commonwealth's five (5) nuclear power plants: Beaver Valley Power Station, Limerick Generating Station, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

Acceptance of KI by a school/school district will be voluntary and will require school board approval. The Department has developed a KI distribution plan that includes protocols for schools/school districts to participate in the program and guidance for implementation. See below for details of the School KI Distribution Plan.