

POTASSIUM IODIDE TABLETS (KI) POLICY, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

In the case of an accident at a nuclear power plant or what is known as a radiological emergency, radioactive iodine will be released into the air. This material may be inhaled or ingested and enter the thyroid gland where it can cause cancer and/or disease. Infants and children are the most vulnerable. The Marshfield School District has had Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets for students and staff on site in each Health Office since 2002.

Rationale for Use

A portion of our community lies within the ten mile zone of the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant. When taken by pill, Potassium Iodide (KI) floods the thyroid with non-radioactive iodine and prevents the thyroid from absorbing the radioactive material. Potassium Iodide (KI) needs to be given before or shortly after exposure to radiation. Potassium Iodide (KI) works only to prevent the thyroid from absorbing radioactive iodine.

PILLS WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED UNTIL THE DIRECTIVE IS RECEIVED FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Parents/legal guardians or students over the age of eighteen will receive and must sign a permission slip for a student to be allocated a Potassium Iodide (KI) tablet. Each school will keep on file the original signed permission slips for their student population. Permission slips are distributed at the time of registration at each school.
2. Each school will maintain its own supply of Potassium Iodide (KI). Each student will have an envelope with their own individual tablet. The Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets for each homeroom will be kept in a large manila envelope. Prior to distribution, these manila envelopes will be stored in the Health Office.
3. Each homeroom will have a list of students with signed permission slips and those without.
4. If evacuation occurs before distribution, each school nurse shall take the Potassium Iodide (KI) supply to the evacuation site along with permission slips. The distribution process listed below will be followed at the evacuation site.
5. If distribution occurs before evacuation, the procedure outlined below will be instituted.

Supplies

1. A large manila envelope for each homeroom. These envelopes will hold the individual student Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets and permission forms.
2. Bottled water and paper cups for each homeroom.

3. Applesauce for those students who need tablets crushed.
4. Spoons

Distribution

A catastrophic event such as radiological emergency will require a coordinated building effort.

1. Each school will have a team assist the school nurse in distributing the Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets to each homeroom teacher in case of incident.
2. Each school will have a team that will assist homeroom teachers in distributing the individual envelopes containing the Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets.
3. Each school will have a team to help pour water and assist those students that need tablets crushed.
4. Team size will be determined by the needs of the class and age of the students.