



Lake County General Health District

PRESS RELEASE
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LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

NEW POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI) IS COMING – Please Keep Your Expired KI until it Arrives

Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) will soon be receiving replacement potassium iodide (KI) to give to Lake County residents living or working within 10 miles of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Free KI will be made available at local participating pharmacies and LCGHD for local businesses and up to 10 members per household. Potassium iodide is a non-prescription medication that, if taken within a specific time frame, can protect the thyroid from radioactive iodine, one of the contaminants that could be released in a nuclear accident or similar event. Exposure to radioactive iodine can increase the risk of thyroid cancer.

In order to make sure that Ohio residents living or working within 10 miles of a nuclear power plant are protected, Ohio Department of Health (ODH), who supplies LCGHD with KI, applied for and received a shelf-life extension on KI expiring in October, 2014. If you have KI that has already expired, it is still safe to take and effective in protecting the thyroid from radioactive iodine. The extension was based on the fact that KI tablets are stable and do not lose their effectiveness over time according to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Also, according to United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Guidance on Shelf-Life Extension, studies have shown that none of the ingredients in KI tablets have the potential to break down or interact with its other ingredients when stored according to the label directions.

For more information on KI, please call the LCGHD at 440-350-2543, visit the LCGHD web site at www.lcghd.org, or the ODH web site at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/rp/techs/kipolicy.aspx>.

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