

PENTUCKET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
22 MAIN STREET
WEST NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01985-1897
TEL: (978) 363-2280 / FAX: (978) 363-1165

GROVELAND
MERRIMAC
WEST NEWBURY

Justin Bartholomew, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Brent Conway
Assistant Superintendent

Greg A. Labrecque
Business Manager

Michael A. Jarvis, Ed.D.
Director of Supplemental and Intensive Services

Potassium Iodide During Nuclear Emergency

The Pentucket Regional Schools (with the exception of Bagnall) are within the 10 mile radius of the Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant. For this reason, the Department of Public Health and the FDA suggest that the schools keep potassium iodide tablets on hand for every student should a nuclear emergency occur.

Please read the attached fact sheet from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to learn more about Potassium Iodide (KI) and why we have it listed on the Student Health Information form. Potassium Iodide will only be given to a student if the parent has consented on the Student Health Information form.

Two main points from the fact sheet:

- **What is potassium iodide (KI) and what is it used for?**

In the case of an accident, or what is known as a radiological emergency, at Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant, radioactive iodine may 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. Potassium iodide (KI) is known to lessen the effect of this radioactive exposure on the thyroid gland.

- **How does potassium iodide work?**

When taken by pill, potassium iodide floods the thyroid with non-radioactive iodine and prevents the thyroid from absorbing the radioactive material. KI needs to be given before or shortly after exposure to radiation.

Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions regarding this important issue