

IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JANE MURRAY, RN BSN MS
HEALTH DIRECTOR



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Iredell County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2014
1800 hours (time of news release)

Contact: Sam Migit, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
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The Iredell County Health Department, with help from Iredell County Sheriff's Office, Iredell County Emergency Management, Mooresville Fire Department and Mount Mourne Volunteer Fire Department, successfully distributed 9,456 potassium iodide (KI) pills at the distribution conducted on Saturday, September 27, 2014. The potassium iodide, or KI, is for residents of Iredell County living in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) surrounding the McGuire Nuclear Power Plant. If you live within the Iredell County 10-mile EPZ and did not pick up your KI on September 27th, you may pick up your household's KI at either location of the Iredell County Health Department, Monday-Friday between the hours of 8 am- 5 pm. The Mooresville location is 610 E. Center Ave. Mooresville and the Statesville location is 318 Turnersburg Hwy, Statesville. If you live in the 10 mile EPZ, but in another County, you should contact the Local Health Department in your County.

Potassium iodide (KI) is a salt of iodine that has been approved by the FDA as a non-prescription drug. KI is for use as a blocking agent to prevent the human thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine and causing cancer. However, KI may not provide people with 100% protection against all radioactive iodine, according to the Centers for Disease Control. And, it does not provide protection from full body irradiation or other radioactive elements that may be the result of a nuclear power plant release.

KI is considered safe for most people but can cause minor side effects such as gastrointestinal disturbances and rashes. Those who are allergic to iodine should not take KI. Anyone who is not sure if they can take KI should talk to their doctor and pharmacist. Do not take KI unless public health officials tell you to do so.

For detailed information about potassium iodide tablets, refer to the information sheet that will accompany the KI tablets given to each household at the time of distribution. You are also encouraged to ask your personal physician or pharmacist about KI. You may visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp>, the North Carolina Division of Public Health Preparedness and Response website at <http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/phpr/ki/ki.html> and the Iredell County Health Department website at <http://www.co.iredell.nc.us/Departments/Health/EmP/radiation.aspx> for additional information. You may also contact the Iredell County Health Department at: 704-878-5300

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Central Office
318 Turnersburg Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625
704 878-5300

Mooresville Office
610 E. Center Avenue
Mooresville, NC 28115
704 664-5281

Environmental Health
349 N. Center Street
Statesville, NC 28677
704 878-5358

<http://www.co.iredell.nc.us/Departments/Health/>