



Potassium Iodide Information

Reason for Taking Potassium Iodide

In the unlikely 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. Children and infants are the most vulnerable to this occurrence. When taken by pill or liquid, potassium iodide (KI) floods the thyroid with non-radioactive iodine and prevents the thyroid from absorbing the radioactive material. Potassium iodide needs to be given before or shortly after exposure to radiation. Potassium iodide works only to prevent the thyroid from absorbing radioactive iodine.

Potential Side Effects of Potassium Iodide:

It is possible to experience **any or all** of the following side effects when taking Potassium Iodide:

- Allergic reaction
- Upset stomach
- Rash

Risks of Taking Potassium Iodide:

Taking Potassium Iodide is safe for most people. Potassium Iodide **should not be taken** if someone:

- Is allergic to iodine
- Has Graves Disease or any other thyroid illness
- Takes thyroid medication
- Has Dermatitis Herpetiformis or Hypocomplementemic Vasculitis

Administration of Potassium Iodide:

The recommended dose of Potassium Iodide will **only be given**:

- In the case of a radiological emergency
- If it is recommended by public health officials
- If a parent/guardian signs a consent form for a child

Parents will consent to Big Lake Schools administering KI on the Student Enrollment Form.