

CDC Key Messages for States

Public Health Questions on the Radiation Emergency in Japan

About KI

- The experts say no public health risks are expected in the U.S. At this time, CDC recommends that people in the United States do not take Potassium Iodide (KI) supplements in response to the nuclear power plant explosions in Japan.
- Use of non-FDA approved iodine supplements cannot be guaranteed for safety or efficacy.
 - These products do not have an FDA-approved dosing schedule.
 - The supplements are not necessarily manufactured using FDA-approved quality control methods.
 - Saturated Solution of Potassium Iodide (SSKI or Lugol's Solution) is not an FDA-approved drug.

Radioactive Iodine in the US

- No radioactive iodine has been detected in the United States.
- The EPA monitors for radioactivity through a national network of monitoring stations called RADNET.
- Experts say no harmful doses of radiation will reach territories, Alaska, Hawaii or the west coast.
- Speaking hypothetically, if an accident were to happen in the U.S, there are protective measures you can take to protect yourself from contamination.
 - Evacuation or sheltering in place can help people avoid contamination.
 - Pay attention to any state or local public health advisories.
 - Another precaution is to avoid any contaminated food supplies. Should radioactive material reach the U.S., the appropriate federal and local agencies will let people know about non-contaminated sources of food.
- KI is used to treat contamination from a certain form of radioactive material (radioactive iodine), and is only useful in specific circumstances and for a short time window.
- Scientists are tracking the location of radioactive iodine released from the power plant.
- There are systems in place to monitor during a nuclear emergency response.