



Harford County Health Department

Main Office: 120 S. Hays Street • P.O. Box 797 • Bel Air, Maryland 21014 • 410-838-1500



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Harford County Health Department

Marcy Austin • Health Officer
Silvana Bowker, LCPC, ACRPS • Deputy Health Officer of Operations
Jamie Sibel, MD, MPH • Medical Deputy Health Officer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ronya Nassar, Public Information Officer, 410-877-1038

Health Department to Distribute Potassium Iodide (KI) Tablets to Residents

Bel Air, MD – October 10, 2023- Residents of Harford County who live or work within ten miles of Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station are eligible to receive free potassium iodide (KI) from the Harford County Health Department during a community KI distribution event.

The distribution event will take place at North Harford High School on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eligible residents will be required to fill out a short distribution form in order to receive their doses. Both adult and child doses will be made available.

KI is a salt of stable, not radioactive, iodine which is an important chemical needed by the body to make thyroid hormones and is a stable iodine in tablet form. KI works by blocking radioactive iodine from entering the thyroid. Once absorbed by the thyroid gland, the gland becomes “full” and cannot absorb any more iodine, either stable or radioactive, for the next 24 hours. You should not use iodized table salt as a substitute for KI because it does not contain enough iodine to block radioactive iodine from getting into your thyroid gland.

“Community KI Distribution is an initiative to supplement the County emergency plans in the event of an incident where radiation is released from the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. While evacuation will remain the primary strategy by which to safeguard the public, the KI will offer citizens a way to protect their thyroid, which is a vital hormone gland that plays a major role in the metabolism, growth and development of the human body,” says the Health Department’s Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Lisa Swank.

Residents who have previously received KI tablets should discard their old, expired KI tablets and are strongly encouraged to attend the event to pick up new tablets. The proper method to dispose of KI is by throwing the tablets away in the household trash and should not be flushed down the toilet or sink.

For more information about this event or topic, visit www.harfordcountyhealth.com or contact the Health Department’s Emergency Preparedness Program at 410-877-1028.

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BEL AIR OFFICE
1 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-3060

EDGEWOOD OFFICE
1321 Woodbridge Station Way
Edgewood, MD 21040
410-612-1779

EDGEWOOD OFFICE
2204 Hanson Road
Edgewood, MD 21040
443-922-7670

HAVRE DE GRACE OFFICE
2027 Pulaski Highway
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-6680

HAVRE DE GRACE OFFICE
2015 Pulaski Highway
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-942-7999