

Adopted: 2/15/2007

Revised: 4/17/2019

Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) in the Event of a Nuclear Accident

POLICY

In order to minimize health and safety risks to staff and students, Swan River Montessori Charter School, District #4137, will distribute potassium iodide (KI) according to the Food and Drug Administration's recommended dosages in the unlikely event of, and potential exposure to, radioactive material from the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Participation requires signed prior consent from a parent or guardian for children under 18 years of age authorizing such administration. All staff and visitors within a participating school at the time of dispensing will also be offered KI. The KI distribution plan designed by the school district shall designate trained individuals to dispense KI.

RATIONALE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Food and Drug Administration have found potassium iodide (KI), a non-prescription medication, if taken just prior or within four hours of radiation exposure, blocks the thyroid gland's uptake of radioactive iodine and reduces the risk of thyroid cancers and other diseases. Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of this type of radiation and should be offered protection during a nuclear emergency. KI does not offer protection from other types of radiation exposure or other hazards that may occur in a nuclear emergency.

PROTOCOL/PROCEDURES

KI administration will only occur in the unlikely event that the timely evacuation of staff and students to a designated reunification site. KI distribution may occur at school prior to evacuation, on a bus during evacuation, or at the designated reunification site.

In the event of evacuation due to a nuclear generating plant incident, the Chief Medical Officer for the State of Minnesota, or his/her designee, will provide medical authorization for the administration of KI. The county emergency management agency will relay the authorization to the School Director. The School Director then initiates the distribution of KI in accordance with school protocol and individual school emergency response procedures.

School protocol will include annual notification of parents, solicitation of signed authorizations, tracking students with and without signed authorizations, Director's delegation of KI administration to trained core crisis teams, distribution and documentation of KI, acquisition, safe storage and quarterly monitoring of stockpile.

Adequate doses of KI pills will be provided by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at no cost to the school district.

SOURCES from other states; school district policies:

<http://www.neola.com/beaverlocal-oh/search/policies/po5330.01.htm>

<http://www.dy-regional.k12.ma.us/dyrsd/policies/Potassium%20Iodide%20%2010-8-04doc.pdf>

<http://www.yorktown.org/policymanual/5000/5421-ki-distribution.pdf>

http://www.oswego.org/policy/policy_detail.cfm?printme=260