

Oakland County Health Division (OCHD)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Japan's Radiation Events

Q. What's the risk for the United States from the current nuclear power emergency in Japan?

A. At present, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) indicates Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to the United States.

Q. What is being done to test for radiation that might be coming or is present in the environment?

A. Federal monitoring is ongoing and will be increased as needed.

Q. Should I take potassium iodide as a precaution?

A. No. Potassium iodide is only needed for those within a very close proximity to a nuclear event. Using potassium iodide when it is not needed could have possible serious side effects such as abnormal heart rhythms, nausea, vomiting, electrolyte abnormalities and bleeding.

Q. Are there any protective measures I should currently take?

A. The best thing anyone can do is to stay informed. The federal government is monitoring the situation. If anything changes, health officials will alert the public to needed precautionary procedures. But, again, at this time, the NRC reports Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to the United States.

Q. How do I get more information?

A. Monitor websites at the following links:

NRC news releases

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/>

WHO Japan Radiation FAQs

<http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index.html>

CDC Radiation Emergencies

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/#public>

CDC Information on Potassium Iodide (KI)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp>

CDC Radiation Emergencies

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/#public>

EPA Statement

<http://www.epa.gov/radiation/statement.html>

NRC Statement

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1107/ML110720002.pdf>

US DHHS

http://www.remm.nlm.gov/remm_pio.htm

MDCH KI Fact Sheet

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/KI_fact_sheet_2-09_268539_7.pdf



Department of Health & Human Services

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