



## **Frequently Asked Questions About Japan's Nuclear Power Plant Emergency and Potassium Iodide (KI)**

### **Is there a need for me to be concerned about radiation coming from Japan?**

No. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has stated that there is no health risk for people living in the United States at this time. Given the thousands of miles between the U.S. and Japan, it is very unlikely that harmful levels of radiation from Japan will reach the U.S.

### **Does Michigan have nuclear power plants?**

Yes. Michigan has three nuclear power plants. The Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant is located in Newport (Monroe County), the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant is located in Bridgman (Berrien County), and the Palisades Power Plant is located in Covert (Van Buren County). It is highly unlikely that the public would come into contact with a radiation released by a nuclear power plant in Michigan. This is due to several factors: the design and construction of Michigan's nuclear power plants, many safety systems that are in place, extensive emergency plans, and regulatory oversight by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

### **Does Michigan have a plan for nuclear power plant emergencies?**

Yes. State agencies, local agencies and the nuclear power plants have approved plans for response to nuclear power plant emergencies. These plans have been in place for many years and are tested on a regular basis.

### **Does Michigan have a supply of potassium iodide (KI) for a nuclear power plant emergency?**

Yes. The Michigan Department of Community Health received a supply of potassium iodide (KI) tablets from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009. The KI tablets are intended for use during a serious emergency at one of Michigan's nuclear power plants. The tablets are available for residents and businesses who live or work within 10 miles of one of the plants.

### **Do I need to take potassium iodide (KI) now?**

No. There is no need for you to take KI since Japan's nuclear emergency does not affect Michigan. It is important for you to know that KI *does not* protect your whole body from radiation. It only protects your thyroid gland if taken within a few hours of coming into contact with harmful radiation. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/ki](http://www.michigan.gov/ki).