

IF NUCLEAR TECH SO SAFE

Why Is The Region Giving Away KI Pills?

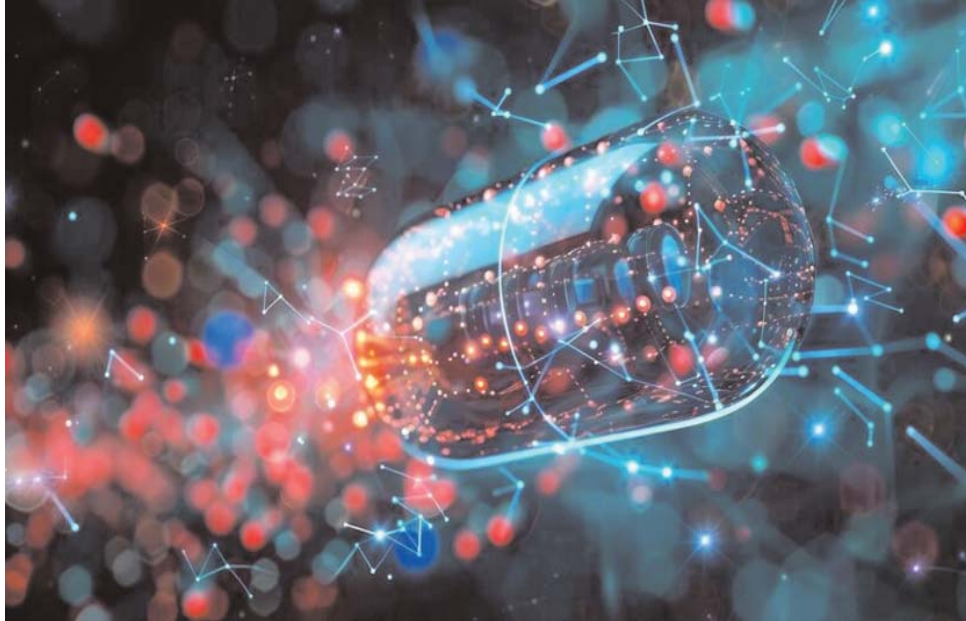
Whitby, Ontario – May 4 to 10 is Emergency Preparedness Week and Durham Region Health Department is reminding all residents and businesses within 10 kilometres of the Pickering or Darlington nuclear generating stations to have a supply of potassium iodide (KI) pills on hand as a preparedness measure. This recommendation is also aimed at pregnant and breastfeeding individuals, as well as parents of infants, children and adolescents as KI is both safe and most effective for these groups. KI is a stable iodine salt that helps in reducing the risk of thyroid cancer in the event of a radioactive iodine release. Newborns, infants, children, adolescents and pregnant and breastfeeding individuals are at the highest risk of negative health effects to the thyroid from radioactive iodine. As a result, these individuals should be the first to receive KI pills in the highly unlikely event of a nuclear accident. If such an incident were to occur, KI pills are only to be taken when instructed to do so by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

As directed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in 2015, Durham Region provided an initial pre-distribution of potassium iodide (KI) pills to all residents and businesses within a 10-kilometre radius of the Pickering and Darlington

nuclear generating stations. This initiative ensured that KI pills were available to the affected population. Current residents, businesses, and newcomers to these communities are encouraged to confirm that they have an adequate supply of KI pills readily available.

"Everyone living or working in the area near Durham Region's two nuclear generating stations are encouraged to check that they have a supply of KI pills on hand," said Anthony Di Pietro, Director, Health Protection with Durham Region Health Department. "In addition, as part of the increased safety standards from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, anyone living within 50 kilometres of a nuclear generating station is also eligible to receive free KI pills by visiting preparetobesafe.ca to order a supply."

The Health Department has developed promotional videos to help educate the public about the purpose of KI pills, where to store pills, when to take them, where to order them and to help increase overall awareness. The videos can be viewed on the Health Department's YouTube channel at youtube.com/DurhamHealth. Durham Region residents can also find information about KI pills in 10 languages by visiting preparetobesafe.ca. A limited supply of KI pills is



available free of charge at some local area pharmacies. The Health Department works in partnership with these pharmacies to help with local distribution:

- Bay Ridges Pharmacy, 1794 Liverpool Rd., Pickering
 - Pickering Medical Pharmacy, 1885 Glenanna Rd., Pickering
 - Liverpool Pharmacy, 725 Krosno Blvd., Pickering
 - Global Drug Mart Remedy's Rx, 130 Waverly Rd., Bowmanville
 - Courtice Pharmasave, 2727 Courtice Rd., Courtice
- This Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4 to 10), Durham Region is reminding you that emergencies can happen at any time—but a little planning can make a big difference. Emergency

Preparedness Week is an opportunity for residents to take small, manageable steps now, so they're ready when it counts.

Throughout the week, the Region will be sharing practical tips and reminders to help households across Durham build resilience—whether it's updating an emergency kit, backing up important documents, or learning how to stay informed during an emergency. Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility, and this week is a reminder that preparedness starts with you.

Some of the small steps we encourage you to consider are:

Build or update your emergency kits—including ones for pets and vehicles. Learn more at durham.ca/Prepared.

Talk to your family about where to meet in an emergency—choose one location in town, and one outside of it. Start your plan at durham.ca/Prepared.

Learn how public alerting systems work by visiting durham.ca/NuclearPreparedness.

Have questions about when to take KI pills? Visit PrepareToBeSafe.ca and find out more.

Residents who live, work, or go to school near a nuclear generating station can access Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Guides, with

clear instructions on what to do in an emergency. These guides are available at durham.ca/NuclearPreparedness.

"Just recently, Durham faced two ice storms that left many residents without power for days. There are steps we can take to reduce the impacts of these types of events—for instance, having non-perishable food and extra water on hand. Emergency preparedness is about more than checklists—it's about peace of mind when the unexpected happens. Even just putting things you already own, like batteries, and band-aids in an easily accessible box – is a great start."

– Jessica Eng, Acting Director, Durham Emergency Management

"We saw Durham's resilience during the recent ice storms, and I couldn't be prouder of how our community pulled together. But these storms were also a powerful reminder that the things we rely on every day—power, heat, internet—might not always be there when we need them most. So, ask yourself: what's your plan? That's the first step. Emergency preparedness doesn't have to be overwhelming—it starts with simple choices that protect the people you care about."

– John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Ontario Taking Action to Strengthen Local Governance

Province re-introducing legislation to create a standardized municipal code of conduct

TORONTO — The Ontario government is protecting communities by re-introducing legislation that would, if passed, strengthen municipal governance and accountability.

Ontario is proposing changes through the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 that would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards.

"Strong local governance begins with accountability," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "People across Ontario trust their members of council to uphold high standards for how they conduct themselves and address the decisions before them. We have worked closely with Ontario's Integrity Commissioner to provide municipal leaders with new tools and resources to deliver good government."

If passed, the changes would include a penalty of removing and disqualifying a member from office if they are in serious violation of the code. Removal and disqualification could only occur upon the recommendation of the municipal integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the

Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and a unanimous vote of council.

"Municipal councils in Ontario have asked for legislation that holds elected officials to a higher standard of accountability," said Robin Jones, AMO President and Mayor of Westport. "If passed, this bill would deliver on ensuring that as members of council, we

are living up to the trust that residents put in us. We commend Minister Flack for getting to this point."

The proposed changes in the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 would amend the Municipal Act, 2001 and the City of Toronto Act, 2006, to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.

Decisions about what is included in the standardized code of conduct will be made after consultations with the municipal sector. It could include rules for ethical

behaviour with respect to, for example, harassment and discrimination and training requirements for members of council and certain local boards.

Working with the municipal sector, Ontario plans to develop the necessary regulations to support the new framework to come into effect for the new term of councils in 2026.

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