

Replacement potassium iodide pills to be distributed to residents near nuclear generating stations

Whitby, Ontario – Ontario Power Generation (OPG), in partnership with Durham Region Health Department and Toronto Emergency Management, will provide residents living within 10 kilometres of the Pickering and Darlington nuclear generating stations with replacement potassium iodide (KI) pills.

These pills will replace those distributed in 2015, which are set to expire in 2027.

Residents within the 10 km zone will automatically receive a KI package by mail at their home address. Residents living within 10 to 50 kilometres of the nuclear generating stations should check the expiry date on their current KI supply and order replacements through preparetobesafe.ca before their pills expire.

When you receive replacement KI pills, throw out all expired KI pills properly. Take expired blister packs to your local pharmacy for safe

disposal and recycle the exterior box at home. Never flush KI pills or any medication down the toilet, as this can harm water systems and the environment.

Although boxes and manufacturers may vary, each pill contains 65 mg of potassium iodide, also referred to as KI. Despite these differences, the product is the same. The pills come in different boxes because each manufacturer uses its own branding and packaging.

KI pills help protect the thyroid gland by blocking the uptake of radioactive iodine, reducing the risk of thyroid cancer in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency. This protection is especially important for newborns, children, adolescents, and pregnant or breastfeeding individuals. KI should only be taken when instructed by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health during a nuclear emergency.

"The Health Department is committed to ensuring com-

munity preparedness by promoting the availability of potassium iodide (KI) tablets," said Anthony Di Pietro, Director, Health Protection with Durham Region Health Department. "We encourage residents to replace expired pills and dispose of them responsibly."

A limited supply of KI pills is also available free of charge at select local pharmacies. Durham Region Health Department works in partnership with the following pharmacies to help with local distribution:

Bay Ridges Pharmacy, 1794 Liverpool Rd., Pickering

Pickering Medical Pharmacy, 1885 Glenanna Rd., Pickering

Liverpool Pharmacy, 725 Krosho Blvd., Pickering

Global Drug Mart Remedy's Rx, 130 Waverly Rd., Bowmanville

Courtice Pharmasave, 2727 Courtice Rd., Courtice

DURHAM

DURHAM - This week incident at a school in Pickering is not an isolated occurrence.

According to The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) is providing an update regarding several recent incidents, including a reported threat, that officers have responded to at William Dunbar Public School in Pickering over the past several weeks.

Subsequently in Oshawa at Harmony Heights Public School has been placed under a hold and secure after receiving a threat. Police are currently on scene assessing the threat. There are no injuries

We understand the concern that incidents of this nature can create for students, staff, families, and the wider community. DRPS shares these concerns and remains committed to supporting the safety and well-being of everyone connected to William Dunbar Public School. Our investigators are actively managing multiple ongoing investigations related to these incidents, including the assessment of the reported threat.

Due to the active nature of these investigations, specific details cannot be released at this time. However, based on all information currently available, DRPS does not believe there is any immediate public safety risk to students, staff, or the school community.

As a precaution, DRPS will continue to maintain an increased police presence in the area. Officers will closely monitor activities in and around the school, and members of 19 Division's School Liaison Unit will conduct additional visits to provide support, engage with students and staff, and reinforce safety and reporting practices.

DRPS remains in close communication with school administration and our community partners as these investigations continue.

The Service is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment for all.

There was an "increased police presence" at the Glenanna Road school Friday, Jan. 30, following "several incidents," said Sgt. Janalyn Dowdle in an online post.

"We recognize the impacts these events have on the students, staff and families as well as our community," she said.

SCHOOLS TARGETED

"Our officers are here to support the safety and well-being of everyone in the William Dunbar community."

Investigators, added Dowdle, "are actively managing several ongoing investigations connected to these incidents."

In a brief online video, Dowdle did not provide details about any of the alleged incidents, citing the ongoing investigations.

The Pickering school was placed in hold-and-secure on Tuesday, Jan. 27 after a threat was made "via telephone," said the Durham force in an earlier online post.

Safety precautions were put in place around 11:40 a.m. that day and were lifted at 2:20 p.m., after officers investigated the threat.

With the increase in hate crimes in both Ajax and Pickering police are being tight lipped over the recent threats.

A few months back a Clarington school was also on lock down until police investigated similar threats.

Recent threats at William Dunbar Public School in Pickering have been linked to an online group that operates in popular gaming apps.

In a joint communication to families on Feb. 2, the Durham District School Board and Durham Regional Police linked a series of ongoing investigations at the school to an online group.

"This threat involves a co-ordinated network of online groups collectively known as 'The Com' (short for The Community)," the joint message, signed by Police Chief Peter Moreira and Camille Williams-Taylor, DDSB's director of education, explained.

"These groups target young people — typically ages 8 to 17 — through widely used online platforms. These groups use grooming, manipulation, intimidation and coercion to exploit youth, which can lead to violent and/or criminal behaviour."

The school community has been vocal in its concern over recent situations at the school, which started in December after written threats were found in a school washroom, prompting a police investigation.

Upon return from the winter break in January, a second police investigation was initiated after a piece of ammunition was

found at the school. Teachers are becoming more concerned over their safety.

One teacher that did not want to be identified said,

"Coming to work has become dangerous. Now external threats add to the daily dangers." The internet has become a dangerous place for our youth.

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