High US demand for iodide pills despite reassurances

Shelves remain empty of Potassium Iodide in Los Angeles following a run on the supplement at grocery stores and pharmacies. -- PHOTO: AFP

LOS ANGELES - US AUTHORITIES sought on Wednesday to reassure Americans that there is minimal health risk here of radioactivity from Japan, as a US iodide pill maker reported an 'enormous' run on the drug.

Demand for potassium iodide, which can protect against the effects of radioactive iodine, was strongest on the US West Coast, where some fear a cloud spewing from Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant could be blown, drug company Anbex said.

The firm, which says it is the only US maker of the pills, was flooded with thousands of orders for its Iosat drug after last Friday's earthquake and tsunami, which has triggered an ongoing nuclear crisis.

'The spike is enormous ... we were out of stock by Friday night,' said Mr Alan Morris, president of Anbex, which supplies the drug to individuals and retailers, including online.

'The demand mostly is coming from the West Coast of the US, but there are a significant number of inquiries, requests, orders coming from Japan, Korea, all over the Far East,' he told AFP.

A random survey of Los Angeles pharmacies by an AFP photographer found no lines of people trying to buy the drug, although some retailers said they had received some requests, but did not have supplies. The surge in demand came as the head of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission warned of 'extremely high' radiation levels from the Fukushima plant. -- AFP

Read also:

- Tepco workers offer to go to stricken atomic plant
- US okays 'voluntary' exit of Japan embassy families
- Obama talks with Japan PM on nuclear threat
- Quake shifted Japan away from Korea: Scientists
- China to send 20,000 tons of fuel for Japan relief
- Survivors' car rose, fell 'like elevator' in tsunami
- Three US charities raise $65m for Japan quake
- IAEA warns Japan over nuclear quake risk: WikiLeaks
- S Korea urges public not to panic on iodide pills
- US deploys experts to monitor Japan radioactivity
- Radiation 'extremely high' at Japan reactor: US
- Japan disaster: Insured losses at $15-32 billion
US sets new safety rules for citizens in Japan
Helicopters dump water to cool reactor in Japan
High US demand for iodide pills despite reassurances
Oil down in Asia on Japan worries
BoJ pumps another $98 billion into market
Japanese auto companies extend plant shutdowns
US military blocks websites for Japan aid effort
US cherry blossom festival proceeds to aid Japan
Japan quake strikes a chord with celebrities
Media exaggerates Japan disaster, US radio host says
Indonesia pledges $2.56m aid for Japan: Reports

1 Share
Like  Sign Up to see what your friends like.

1. US woman took dead baby shopping
2. The SAF soldier’s latest weapon - the iPad
3. Woman dies of heart attack at her own funeral
4. After maid story, father now carries pack for NS man
5. Raped by dad and sold to 200 men
6. Singaporeans under attack
7. Sons, mistress tussle over $7m house
8. Man drowns after drinks at Zouk
9. More leave home to flee gambling debts
10. Singaporeans under attack

Most Popular

1. US woman took dead baby shopping
2. The SAF soldier’s latest weapon - the iPad
3. Woman dies of heart attack at her own funeral
4. After maid story, father now carries pack for NS man
5. Raped by dad and sold to 200 men
6. Singaporeans under attack
7. Sons, mistress tussle over $7m house
8. Man drowns after drinks at Zouk
9. More leave home to flee gambling debts
10. Singaporeans under attack

Information for ACMIs and the psychotherapy practice of Eva M. Brown
documentationclinicalsuccesssince1978.
Free CD/diagnostic tools
www.social-anxiety.com

Help with Social Anxiety
Documented clinical success since 1978.
Free CD/diagnostic tools
www.social-anxiety.com

Athens Counseling Service
Positive-Outcomes.com

Search for the Right Job

Career Opportunities
- Engineering Professionals
- HR Professionals
- IT Professionals
- Marketing Professionals

Career Resources
- S'pore workers 'world's unhappiest'
- 10 tips to ace the job interview
- 10 tough questions interviewers ask
- Which personality type are you?
- Say it right
- Your CV is your sales brochure
- Getting the right cover

View more job openings in Singapore.