



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

Steve Hall, RS, MS
Health Officer

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department's Environmental Health Division

RE: Radon Action Month

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January is Radon Action Month

January is Radon Action month, and the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) wants to remind you that testing for radon in your home, office, and school is an important way to protect your health. While we all have been concerned about staying safe from COVID-19 this past year, other hazards to our health have not gone away. Radon is one of the hazards that has been around and will remain after this COVID-19 is a memory. Radon cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted, so testing is the only way to determine if radon is a problem in your indoor environment. This January, protect yourself and your family by testing your home to see if you have dangerous levels of radon gas.

Radon has been determined to be the most serious cancer-causing agent that the public encounters in the environment. The winter months when doors and windows are closed is the best time to test for radon.

Radon tests are easy to do and kits are available at most local health departments. You should test your home for radon if you have never tested, moved to a new home, recently remodeled, or it has been several years since testing. Small cracks in the foundation can develop over time as buildings settle, providing additional pathways for radon gas to enter. People staying home more and new home office work, especially in a lower level in your home, are additional reasons to get a radon test.

For many years now, the Central Michigan District Health Department has promoted Radon Action Month by giving away free radon test kits in exchange for donations of non-perishable food items. The food collected has been given to local food pantries to replenish their shelves after the holidays. COVID-19 has resulted in a little different process this year so we can all stay safe. If you would like a free radon test kit to test your home, please call your local CMDHD branch office. Staff will take your name, address where the test kit will

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be used, and arrange a time when you can pick up your free kit so contact with people outside your household is minimized. Since CMDHD is not collecting food items this year, we ask that you consider those in need during this trying time and provide a cash or food donation directly to your local food pantry.

More general radon information is available by calling the Central Michigan District Health Department or visiting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Website at <https://www.epa.gov/radon> or the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) at <http://www.michigan.gov/radon> .

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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