

## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM RADON District Health Department #10 Offering Free Radon Test Kits during the Month of January

January 10, 2022 – The month of January is recognized as National Radon Action Month to bring about awareness of how to prevent exposure to this dangerous gas. All month long, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is giving away free radon test kits to help you determine if radon is present in your home.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas released from rocks, soil, and water. As homes settle, foundations crack, and radon levels change, radon can unknowingly seep inside. If this continues, the long-term effects of breathing in radon could be the development of lung cancer later in life.

"If radon is present in your home, it has the potential to build up and become harmful," states Michael Kramer, Environmental Health Manager at DHD#10. "Because there are no physical signs: rash, nausea, headache, that will alert people to the presence of radon in their homes, people tend to downplay the health effects and ignore the possibility that danger is lurking."

In Michigan, nearly one in four homes is expected to exceed the recommended federal action level and, in some counties, as many as 40-45% of homes could be affected. Because of this, DHD#10 is working to educate the public about the importance of testing their homes and building for radon exposure. Testing should occur in all homes, whether new or old, every two years. The only way to know for sure if a home has a buildup of radon is to test for it. That's why, January is the perfect time to pick up a free test kit at any one of our ten DHD#10 offices.

For more information on radon or radon testing, please visit <a href="www.epa.gov/radon">www.epa.gov/radon</a>. You can also call 888-217-3904 to connect with your local DHD#10 Environmental Health office.

## About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families of Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.



## MEDIA CONTACT

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## **COUNTIES SERVED:**

Crawford Kalkaska Lake Manistee Mason Mecosta Missaukee Newaygo Oceana Wexford





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