

## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM RADON

### *DHD#10 Offering FREE Radon Test Kits Throughout January*

January 5, 2024 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is recognizing National Radon Action Month by offering free radon test kits throughout the month of January. National Radon Action Month is critical to bringing about awareness of how to prevent exposure to this dangerous gas.

All month long, DHD#10 will be giving away free radon test kits at each of their locations to help residents determine if radon is present in their 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.

"It's important to test for radon in the home as build up can happen and become harmful," said DHD#10 Environmental Health Director Max Bjorkman. "There are no physical signs of the presences of radon, so being able to offer free radon test kits is great and it helps us highlight the possible danger lurking in their homes and offices

According to [the U.S Environmental Protection Agency](#):

- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 Americans each year.
- EPA estimates that more than 10% of radon-related lung cancer deaths occur among people who have never smoked cigarettes.
- Nearly one out of every 15 homes in the United States has high radon levels.

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 residents about the importance of testing their homes and buildings 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.

DHD#10 has radon test kits are available in a limited supply, please consider calling ahead to make sure they are available. DHD#10 local office phone numbers are available here: <https://www.dhd10.org/clinic-locations/>.

For more information on radon or radon testing, please visit [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon). You can also call 888-217-3904 to connect with your local DHD#10 Environmental Health office.

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#### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



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