



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Midland County Department of Public Health Recognizes January as Radon Action Month

January is National Radon Action Month – Radon is a tasteless, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. It enters homes through openings in the foundation floor and walls and can get into the air we breathe.

Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. There are no warning signs or symptoms (it does not cause headaches, nausea or fatigue). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are radon related.

Jim Henry, Environmental Health Director at Midland County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), explained; “One in eight Michigan homes is likely to have an elevated radon level. The only way to know if you and your family are at risk is to test.”

The EPA recommends that houses with radon levels of 4 picocuries per liter or more should be fixed to prevent accumulation of the gas indoors. Caulking and sealing is rarely adequate as a stand-alone mitigation option. To get guaranteed results, a trained contractor can be hired to install a radon mitigation system, usually within a day. The cost is similar to that of many common home repairs, such as painting or having a new water heater installed (anywhere from \$500 to about \$2,500).

Free radon test kits are available during the month of January at the Midland County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services Division, located at 220 W. Ellsworth Street, Midland, MI 48640.

For more information, please contact MCDPH at (989) 832-6380 or visit:

<https://co.midland.mi.us/HealthDepartment/EnvironmentalHealthServices/Radon.aspx>

<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/materials-management/indoor-radon>

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/radon-frequently-asked-questions>

