

For Immediate Release
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January is Radon Awareness Month – Test Your Home with FREE TEST KITS!

January is Radon Awareness Month and Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is encouraging residents to test their homes by offering FREE test kits for the month. Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that is released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. While levels in outdoor air pose a relatively low threat to human health, radon can accumulate to dangerous levels inside homes.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. Because you can't see, smell or taste radon, the only way to know if you have elevated levels is by performing a test. Elevated levels of radon are present in approximately 13% of homes tested in Grand Traverse County. "In northern Michigan radon levels in homes have a tendency to be at the highest levels during winter months, because windows remain closed all the time. If elevated levels of radon gas exist in your home, it can increase your chances of developing lung cancer," said Brent Wheat, Environmental Health Director for the GTCHD.

Testing every two years is suggested as homes settle and slight cracks in the foundation of a home can result in changing radon levels. Radon reduction systems can be installed to help reduce radon to acceptable levels.

GTCHD is offering FREE Radon test kits for the entire month of January as long as supplies last. Kits can be picked up at the Environmental Health Division of the GTCHD at 2650 LaFranier Rd., Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. until January 31, 2022.

For additional information about the test kits, please call (231) 995-6051.

For more information about Radon, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

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