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Health Department of Northwest Michigan News Release

Health Department reminds residents of Free Radon Testing in January

January is National Radon Action Month, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is excited to bring back the “Give a Can, Get a Kit” campaign where we ask for nonperishables in exchange for a radon testing kit.

“It’s important to get your home regularly tested for radon,” said Dan Thorell, Director of Environmental Health Services at the health department. “Testing for radon every two years in your home, office, and school is an important way to safeguard your health. And, by bringing in a nonperishable item to our offices, you are not only contributing to your health but the health of our community,” he added.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. There are no physical signs that will let you know radon is present in your home. There is no discoloration or visible traces of radon on the foundation. You cannot smell or taste radon; the only way to know if you have elevated levels is by doing a test. Testing every two years is recommended as homes settle and slight cracks in the foundation of a home can result in changing radon levels. Elevated radon levels can be reduced by installing radon reduction systems to help reduce radon to acceptable levels.

Most homes contain some concentration of radon and should be tested. About 12% of homes in Michigan have unsafe levels of radon. In some counties, as many as 45% of homes are at risk. With testing, it is easy to determine if radon levels in your home should be a concern.

For additional information about radon, visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s site at epa.gov/radon. For additional information about radon test kits, please call the health department at 1-800-432-4121.

Radon kits can be picked up through January 31, 2022, at all Health Department of Northwest Michigan offices on Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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