



# Jackson County Health Department

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### January is Radon Action Month

TO: Public Service Editor

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#### NEWS RELEASE

**January is National Radon Action Month! Do you know your Number?** Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer, next to smoking. In homes where cigarette smoking occurs, the risks will significantly increase. Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas, which leaks into homes through cracks or openings in basement walls, ground floors and crawl spaces.

Don Hayduk, Environmental Health Director states “Jackson County is considered a Zone 1 County, which means that average radon levels are expected to be above the Environmental Protection Agency’s recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L (pronounced peeko kuries) picoCuries per Liter.” “The only way to find out your exposure level to radon is to take action and test your home.” The Environmental Health Division of the Jackson County Health Department encourages everyone to test their homes for radon.

According to Mr. Hayduk, “the Environmental Health Division is providing two types of test kits to the public. The short term test kit is recommended for testing from 3-7 days. This test provides you with a radon level at a specific point in time. Long term test kits test the air for at least 3 months and up to a year. The long term kits provide you with an average radon level that you are exposed to in your home.”

Short-term test kits are available for the reduced cost of \$5 (normally \$11) and long term test kits are available for \$15 (normally \$30) at the Jackson County Health Department Environmental Health Office during National Radon Action Month. **For more information, please call (517) 788-4433.** Additional information is available on the Health Department radon facts page located at <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/458/Radon-Facts>

<More>

Here are some quick radon facts.

### ***What is Radon?***

Radon is a radioactive gas that is found in soil and rock in all parts of the United States. It is formed by the decay of uranium, which is a natural process. Radon gas is invisible, and it has no odor or taste.

### **What Types of Buildings Contain Radon?**

- Radon may be found in all types of homes and buildings in the United States. If there is radon gas in the ground, it can seep into a building.
- Radon typically moves up from the ground into a home through drains, cracks or other holes in the foundation. Radon then can be trapped inside the home.
- Radon levels can fluctuate over time and from season to season due to weather and home construction design. Winter radon levels tend to be slightly higher than summer levels on average.

### **How Does Radon Affect Health?**

- Studies show that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind cigarette smoking.
- The higher the radon level indoors, the greater the amount you breathe. Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As they break down, these particles release small bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue.
- Inhaling indoor air containing radon over a period of many years can increase your risk of getting lung cancer. Your chance of getting lung cancer from radon depends on how much radon is in your home and how much time you spend in your home. If you are a smoker or a former smoker, the risk of getting lung cancer from radon is even greater.

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Please include the above news release in your print media as often as possible during the month of January 2018.