

SCHOOL RADON TESTING PROGRAM

Fact Sheet for School Staff

Radon testing will identify rooms in which radon levels are elevated, so that they can be remediated, thus protecting students and school personnel from exposure to unusually high radon concentrations.

In order for testing to be effective, testers will need the cooperation of teachers and other school staff in several ways.

1) Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. As with all gases, it is affected greatly by air currents and air pressure differences. Therefore, to obtain reliable test results, it is essential to keep windows and doors closed except for normal entry and exit. This will reduce the extent to which weather, wind, and barometric conditions cause radon levels to fluctuate in unpredictable ways. Your cooperation is needed to ensure that doors and windows are kept closed (except for normal entry and exit) starting twelve hours prior to the beginning of the test and continuing throughout the testing period. If you encounter difficulties, please contact your principal or the school administrator who is coordinating the test.

2) The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system should be operating normally through the testing period, with the usual start-up and set-back periods. If you have heating or ventilation controls within your classroom or office, operate them as you would normally (with the exception of opening windows).

3) The test devices must not be disturbed during the test period, which typically lasts two to five days. They will be placed in a location that minimizes the likelihood of disturbance, but please assist in ensuring that they are not moved or handled.

In addition, teachers can play a role in educating students about radon in conjunction with the testing period. Materials, lesson plans, and general information are available from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Radon Website, www.njradon.org. Radon is a lifelong environmental health issue, and this is a valuable opportunity for students to learn about radon and the importance of testing for it at school and in their homes. Thank you for your active cooperation in ensuring that radon testing in your school is done properly so that the results are a valid assessment of the exposure of students and staff. Information is also available through the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection 547 River Street Flanigan Square, Room 530 Troy, NY 12180-2216 518-402-7556 800-458-1158 radon@health.state.ny.us

***RADON TEST
IN PROGRESS!***

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