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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KCHD and Healthy Homes Coalition Team Up for Radon Action Month**

January is National Radon Action Month. This time of year, people may be getting the highest doses of radon with every indoor breath they take. That makes January the best time to test your home for radon. Nearly 1 in 8 homes in our state could have a radon problem, and the residents would not know it. Radon is colorless, odorless and tasteless, and this radioactive gas can increase your risk of lung cancer.

Radon is naturally occurring in rock and soil. It can enter buildings through cracks or openings in the foundation of floors and walls, around sump openings, or spaces around plumbing. It occurs in both new and old homes, or houses built over a basement, over a crawlspace or built on slab-on-grade.

“The first step is learning if you have radon seeping into your home,” says Paul Haan, the Executive Director of Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan. “There are several experts who can help residents keep this dangerous gas from adversely impacting their health.”

The Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan and the Kent County Health Department recommend testing homes for radon. Just hang a small filter in your home for about one week, and mail it for testing in a pre-paid envelope. You will receive the results within a few weeks.

“The Surgeon General says radon is the second biggest cause of lung cancer in the United States,” says Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “Only cigarette smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.”

Tests are available at the Kent County Health Department and the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan. For more information or to obtain a test, call (616) 632-6900 or (616) 241-3300.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).