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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 3, 2020

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**Kent County Health Department to Provide Free Radon Test Kits**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is offering free radon test kits to Kent County residents while supplies last. You can't see, smell or taste radon but the radioactive gas can kill. Next to smoking, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States claiming the lives of more than twenty thousand Americans every year, according to the U.S. Surgeon General.

KCHD recommends that all homes should be tested for radon every few years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as national Radon Action Month, a perfect time for you to protect your family by testing your home. Testing is the only way to know if radon is present in your home.

"Testing for radon is an easy and important step in protecting the health of your family," says Brendan Earl, Supervising Sanitarian with the Kent County Health Department. "The kit is easy to use. Simply hang a filter inside your house for a few days, then send it in a self-addressed, pre-stamped envelope for testing."

Residents using the kits and the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy will both receive the results. People can use the information when deciding on how best to pursue remediation, and the state gains a better understanding of the prevalence of radon in Michigan. For help understanding the test results, please contact the KCHD Environmental Health Division at 616-632-6900.

Radon occurs naturally in the ground. It seeps into buildings through cracks or openings in the foundation of floors and walls. It occurs in both new and old homes. The EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey have developed a map of risk zones for the United States. You can view the risk maps by clicking [here](#). Kent County is typically categorized as having a moderate to high levels of radon.

The kits are available Monday – Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm only at the Kent County Health Department's main clinic location at 700 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids

Only one kit will be given per household.

**Media Note:** High Resolution images of the radon test kits are available for download at [https://accesskent.com/News/radon\\_action\\_month.htm](https://accesskent.com/News/radon_action_month.htm).

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 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 three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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