



## Vilas County Public Health Department

330 Court Street

Eagle River, WI 54521

715-479-3656 • 866-845-2726 • Fax: 715-479-3741

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Lori Bergum, RN**  
**Vilas County Public Health, (715) 479-3656**

**Date: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### Test Your Home for Radon Gas

**Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas.** Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States among non-smokers and the second leading cause for smokers. You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it may be a problem in your home. The EPA estimates radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year, resulting in more deaths per a year than drunk driving, drowning, fires, or carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Radon can be found all over the U.S.** Radon comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. It can get into any type of building- homes, offices, and schools- and build up to high levels. But you and your family are mostly likely to get your greatest exposure at home. That's where you spend most of your time.

**You should test for radon.** Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. The EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy – it should only take a few minutes of your time. Protect your family and test your home.

**You can fix the problem.** The cost of reducing radon in your home depends on how your home was built and the extent of the radon problem. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs. The cost to fix can vary widely. Consult with your state radon office or get one or more estimates from qualified contractors.

Between January 28th and March 1<sup>st</sup> test kits are available at the Vilas County Public Health Department or your local town hall for \$10.00 which includes sales tax. Please call 715-479-3656 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. with any questions. **Quantities are limited.**