

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      CONTACT: Chris Westover**  
**MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

**Monroe County, Michigan, January 2, 2020**

The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) would like to remind everyone that January through March is an ideal time to test their home for radon gas. January is officially “Radon Action Month” per Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. It is estimated that the annual deaths from lung cancer in the U.S. from radon ranges from 14,000 to 21,000.

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the soil. Radon gas moves through the soil and finds its way into a home through cracks in the foundation and openings around pumps, pipes and drains. Contrary to public understanding, there is no direct correlation between radon levels and house age or house ventilation levels. Any home may have a radon problem. The EPA recommends that all homes be tested to determine the potential for an elevated radon level. **Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk for health issues caused by radon.**

Radon is measured in units of Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The EPA recommends that because no level of radon is considered absolutely safe, radon levels in homes should be reduced as much as possible. Action should definitely be taken to reduce radon levels if the annual average level is higher than 4 pCi/L.

The Monroe County Health Department will continue to work with Monroe County residents to raise awareness of the threat of radon and will provide materials and information about testing for radon. Through a cooperative effort with the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Environment, the MCHD is able to continue to offer free radon test kits to Monroe County residents. Kits will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Supplies are limited

## **Free radon test kits**

**Are available from the MCHD at their office:**

**Monroe County Environmental Health Division**  
2353 South Custer Road (M-50)  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

For more information on the MCHD radon program, please call: **734-240-7900**