

# RADON IN SCHOOLS

## A Tools for Schools Team Approach

### What You Should Know

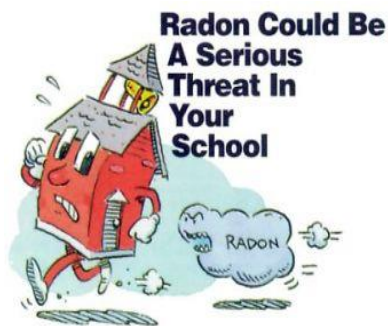
Radon is a naturally-occurring, odorless, tasteless, and invisible radioactive gas. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) maintains lists of Qualified Measurement Professionals for Schools who can perform radon testing and Nationally Certified Mitigation Professionals who can reduce elevated radon levels. Current lists of radon professionals are available on the CT DPH Radon Program website at: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/radon>

### What to Expect

Radon school testing professionals must:

- Ensure that communication between administration and staff, students and parents occurs before testing begins.
- Meet with the facility manager to discuss future school renovations, obtain a floor plan of the building and conduct a walk-through inspection to determine testing areas prior to testing.
- Conduct testing between November 1st through April 1st, during weekdays while school is in session and the HVAC system is running normally.
- Place test devices in all occupied rooms in contact with the ground (usually basement and first floor) including offices, gymnasiums, laboratories, and cafeterias for initial testing.
- Use one test device for every 2,000 square feet in larger rooms.
- Conduct testing under closed conditions (all windows shut) 12 hours prior and throughout the 48 hour minimum testing period.
- Retrieve the test devices after the 48-72 hour testing period.
- Provide schools with a written report after testing has been completed. A copy of this report should be kept in the school's main office for the public to view.



### Schools Responsibility

Radon testing is only successful when you have the cooperation of students and staff. Good communication between administration and building occupants is necessary.

School administrators must:

- Hire radon measurement professionals from the *Qualified Professionals for Schools* list provided on the Radon Program website.
- **Before** scheduled testing, provide radon information to staff, students, and parents.
  - Post the electronic version of the *Radon in Schools* brochure on the school's website (available on the "Schools" section of the CT DPH Radon Program website)
- **After** testing is complete, openly communicate radon test results with staff and students. Let staff and parents know that confirmed high levels of radon can and will be reduced. Your Radon Measurement Professional can assist you in communicating results.

### Interpreting Radon Test Results

Results that are **less than 4.0 picocuries per liter (< 4.0 pCi/L)** require no action.

- Notify staff and parents in a brief summary no later than 1 month after receiving your written report from the measurement professional.

Results that are **equal to or greater than 4.0 ( $\geq$  4.0 pCi/L)** are considered elevated and require action:

- Follow-up testing must be done in all rooms with elevated levels.
- If the average of the initial and follow-up testing is equal to or greater than 4.0 pCi/L, take the necessary steps to hire a radon mitigation professional to reduce radon levels.
- Notify staff and parents in a brief summary no later than 1 month after receiving the written reports. Include the proposed plan to reduce the elevated levels of radon.

**For assistance, please contact the CT DPH Radon Program at 860-509-7299**