

News



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH URGES ALL CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS TO TEST
FOR RADON GAS DURING JANUARY, RADON AWARENESS MONTH

HARTFORD — Radon in indoor air and well water continues to be an important health concern in Connecticut, according to state Department of Public Health Commissioner Joxel Garcia, M.D., M.B.A.

“One in five homes in Connecticut has yielded radon in air levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guideline,” says Dr. Garcia. “Yet, too few households are paying attention to this serious concern. National surveys show that only 30% of state residents have tested for radon in their homes. And the testing and awareness rates in minority populations are even lower,” according to Dr. Garcia.

Radon is a colorless and odorless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the environment and can seep into buildings to pose a significant health risk. Public health officials consider it to be second only to smoking as a major factor in the development of lung cancer. Each year, radon is cited in 12% — 15,000 to 22,000 — of national lung cancer deaths.

To focus attention on this environmental health risk and remind people of the need to test their homes for radon, the EPA has designated January as National Radon Awareness Month. Residents are also encouraged to test water for radon if the source is a private well.

“The heating season is the best time to test for radon,” according to Dr. Garcia. “Typically, closing our homes to keep the cold out increases the possibility of radon being trapped indoors.”

The American Lung Association and DPH urge residents to have their homes tested. For additional information on radon or testing, contact your local health department or the Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7270.

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