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January is Radon Awareness Month – Test Your Home with FREE Test Kits!

January is Radon Awareness Month and health departments across Northern Michigan are encouraging residents to test their homes. Because you can't see it or smell it, testing is the only way to know if there is Radon in a home.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking in the United States. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Surgeon General's office estimate Radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

Radon gas can become dangerous when it is trapped indoors and builds up to high levels. Radon can enter homes through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. "In the winter, when windows stay closed all the time, Radon can rise to especially high levels in a home. If you breathe the gas, it will increase your chances for developing lung cancer," said Dan Thorell, Environmental Health Director for the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD).

In recognition of Radon Awareness Month, GTCHD is offering FREE Radon test kits from **Tuesday, January 22nd through Friday, January 25th** at their location at 2650 LaFranier Rd. These free test kits are available from the GTCHD's Environmental Health Division through collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance.

Be sure to test your home for Radon this year and keep your family safe from unseen hazards. Feel free to call GTCHD's Environmental Health Division at 231-995-6051 for additional information.

For more information about Radon, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/radon/index.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/radon>

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A Member of the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance