

Iowa County Health Department

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: January 10, 2018

To: Iowa County Media

From: Sue Matye, Director/Health Officer, Iowa County Health Department

Phone: (608) 930-9870

January is National Radon Awareness Month

Free Radon Test Kits are available at the Iowa County Health Department

Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. The Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. Smoking coupled with high radon levels increases the risk of lung cancer.

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural decay of uranium, which is found in nearly all soils. Radon typically moves up through the ground to the air above and seeps into homes through cracks and other holes in the foundation. The radon gas can be trapped inside the home where it can build up.

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. High radon levels have been found in every state and in every type of house. Approximately 5-10 percent of Wisconsin homes have elevated radon levels.

Testing is inexpensive and easy — and should only take a few minutes. Test kits are available free of charge at the Iowa County Health Department, 303 West Chapel Street, Floor 2, Suite 2200, Dodgeville, WI 53533.

Making repairs to eliminate radon gas can be simple and affordable. A typical radon problem can be solved for less than \$1,000.

For more information or to locate a qualified contractor, contact the Iowa County Health Department at (608) 930-9870.