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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Importance of Radon Testing in Homes

You can't see it. You can't smell it. But breathing in high levels of radon can increase your risk of lung cancer even if you don't smoke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and it is estimated to cause over 20,000 deaths each year in the United States. This is the reason it is so important to get your home tested for radon.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that seeps into your home through cracks in the foundation, walls and joints. It can be found in well water and in dirt floors. Whether your home has a basement, sits on a slab, is brand-new or old, radon can build-up and go undetected.

Testing your home with a short term radon test kit is a quick and easy way to determine if there are high levels of radon in your home. The Genesee County Health Department has a limited number of short term test kits available free of charge for Genesee County residents. These test kits are easy and quick to use.

"Testing for radon is one of the easiest preventative health measures you can take," stated Darren Brodie, Environmental Health Director for Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health). "If your radon levels are low, we suggest you test every couple of years. If your radon levels are high, we can give you information about how to mitigate the radon. Either way, you have made an important step to keep your family safe."

For more information about radon and how to receive a free radon test kit in Genesee County, contact the Genesee County Health Department at 585-344-2580 x5555 or [Health@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:Health@co.genesee.ny.us).

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