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Agency of Human Services

Dear School Nurse and School Administrator,

With the start of a new school year, I would like to share with you a free school radon testing resource. You may recall that Vermont students took part in a poster contest in 2015 promoting the importance of radon testing in their homes. We look forward to supporting your efforts to promote a safe and healthy school environment.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas present in soil and bedrock that enters and accumulates in buildings. It is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Exposure to radon is thought to account for an estimated 50 lung cancer deaths per year in Vermont.

Testing for radon is the only way to know what level of radon school personnel and students are exposed to. The Health Department's Radon Program performs free radon screenings each winter for schools in Vermont. As of July 2015, seven out of the 65 Vermont public schools tested (10.8%) had screening results above the EPA's action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Radon concentrations as high as 20.0 pCi/L have been detected in Vermont schools. Three schools have worked with the Health Department to install radon mitigation systems to address elevated radon levels.

Based on prior testing results, we estimate that there are more than 20 additional Vermont public schools with have elevated radon concentrations that have not yet tested.

To have your school tested for radon:

1. Contact the Vermont Department of Health's Department Radon Program to sign up for a free radon screening (call 1-800-439-8550 or email radon@vermont.gov).
2. Contact a certified radon measurement provider. A list of certified measurement providers can be found at <http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/database-search/> by searching for "Measurement Providers" in "Vermont."

Thank you for helping us increase awareness of and reduce risks associated with radon exposure.

Sincerely,

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Cc:

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