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Release Date:

1/5/2026

January is National Radon Action Month

St. Johns, Stanton, Ithaca, MI – The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is encouraging residents to test their homes for radon this January and is offering free test kits to those living in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm counties.

MMDHD's Health Officer, Liz Braddock says, "Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon since there are no warning symptoms and no physical signs to let you know you are being exposed."

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. It comes from the radioactive breakdown of radium, which comes from the radioactive decay of uranium. Both radium and uranium are found in at least trace amounts in almost any kind of soil or rock.

One in every four Michigan homes is expected to have radon levels that exceed the recommended federal action level. This is alarming because radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. Home radon testing is recommended every two to five years because homes settle and new cracks form in the foundation, causing radon levels to change. You can't see, smell or taste radon. The only way to know if you have elevated radon levels is to test.

Get your free radon test kit by visiting or contacting MMDHD:

- Clinton County Branch Office: 1307 E. Townsend Road, St. Johns. Phone: 989-224-2195
- Gratiot County Branch Office: 151 Commerce Drive, Ithaca. Phone: 989-875-3681
- Montcalm County Branch Office: 615 N. State Street, Stanton. Phone: 989-831-5237

For further information about radon, visit: Michigan.gov/radon or EPA.gov/radon.

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