



Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

570 N. Marshall Road
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561
Fax (517) 278-2923

20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395
Fax (517) 437-0166

1110 Hill Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161
Fax (269) 273-2452

www.bhsj.org

"Your Local
Health Department"

**January 8, 2018
NEWS RELEASE**

**Rebecca Burns, Health Officer
517-279-9561, ext. 0148#**

**Paul Andriacchi, Environmental Health Director
269-273-2161, ext. 0129#**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH IN THEIR HOMES RADON – A SILENT KILLER

Citizens Urged to Test Homes for Radon

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declares January as National Radon Action Month to bring awareness to the dangers posed by indoor radon gas. You can't see, smell or taste radon but it could be present in your home at dangerous levels. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among non-smokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 people each year. In fact, the EPA and the Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools and other buildings for radon.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), St. Joseph County homes have predicted average indoor radon screening levels greater than 4 pCi/L, which is considered high. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risk of radon, but never before has there been such overwhelming proof that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans. Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and free. Radon test kits are available from your local county health department office located in Coldwater, Hillsdale or Three Rivers, MI. If a problem

is detected, radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors for a cost similar to that of many common home repairs such as painting or having a new water heater installed.

The health department urges tri-county residents to take action during this year's National Radon Action Month by testing their homes for radon. Radon poses a serious threat to our community's health but there is a straightforward solution. For more information on radon, radon testing and mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction, call your local county health department office of the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency at:

- 517-279-9561, ext. 0106# (Coldwater)
- 517-437-7395, ext. 0311# (Hillsdale)
- 269-273-2161, ext. 0233# (Three Rivers)

Or visit the health department's website at www.bhsj.org. You can also learn more by visiting the EPA's National Radon Action Month Website at www.epa.gov/radon/nram. To learn about more free or reduced cost services that you can access locally, visit our website at www.bhsj.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bhsj/wic.