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### Health Department reminds residents of Free Radon Testing in January

January is National Radon Action Month, and The Benzie Leelanau District Health Department is excited to bring back the “Give a Can, get a Kit” campaign where we ask for nonperishables in exchange for a Radon testing kit.

“The last couple of years have been successful with several boxes of nonperishables being donated to local food pantries,” stated Eric Johnston, Environmental Health Director. “Our communities are amazing and are always willing to assist each other and we hope to continue contributing to our communities this year.”

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department wants to remind community members that regular testing for radon (every two years) in your home, office, and school is an important way to safeguard your health.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. There are no physical signs that will let you know radon is present in your home. There is no discoloration or visible traces of radon on the foundation. You cannot smell or taste radon, the only way to know if you have elevated levels is by doing a test. Testing every two years is recommended as homes settle and slight cracks in the foundation of a home can result in changing radon levels. Elevated radon levels can be reduced by installing radon reduction systems to help reduce radon to acceptable levels.

“Be sure to test your home for radon this year and keep your family safe from unseen hazards,” Johnston added. Most homes contain some concentration of radon and should be tested. About 12% of homes in Michigan have unsafe levels of radon. In some counties, as many as 45% of homes are at risk. With testing, it is easy to determine if radon levels in your home should be a concern.

For additional information about radon, visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s site ([epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)). For additional information about radon test kits, please call 231-882-4409.

Radon kits can be picked up at Health Department Offices in Benzonia and Lake Leelanau on Monday-Friday between 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM- 4:30PM until January 31, 2022.

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