NORTHERN MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

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Test for Radon

January is National Radon Action Month. Do you know your number? Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer, next to smoking. In homes where cigarette smoking occurs, the risks will significantly increase. Radon is found in soil and rock and is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas, which leaks into homes through cracks or openings in basement walls, ground floors and crawl spaces.

"Measuring the radon levels in households can significantly reduce the risk of lung cancer for families," says Steve King, Environmental Health Director for the Central Michigan District Health Department. "Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive, and homes with elevated levels can be fixed." The Central Michigan District Health Department is offering free radon test kits during the month of January for the donation of non-perishable food items. If you wish to purchase a kit they are available for the reduced price of $5 for the month of January. Donated non-perishable foods and proceeds will be given to local food banks to replenish their supplies after the holiday season.

Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance recommends that all homes be tested. Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon since there are no warning signs or symptoms from exposure. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality estimates 1 out of 8 homes in Michigan have elevated radon levels.

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The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test it! For more information, contact your local health department.

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Media Contact	Phone	Counties
Rose Ann M. Davis, Grand Traverse County Health Department	231-995-6104	Grand Traverse
Melissa DeRoche, Central Michigan District Health Department	989-773-5921, ext. 1433	Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, Roscommon
Carrie Field, Health Department of Northwest Michigan	231-347-5326	Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Otsego
Cathy Goike, District Health Department #4	989-358-7970	Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency, Presque Isle
Rachel Pomeroy, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department	231-256-0204	Benzie, Leelanau
Tracey Wood, District Health Department #2	989-329-3134	Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda
Jeannine Taylor, District Health Department #10	231-876-3823	Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, Wexford