

## **Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Citizens Urged to Check Their Homes for Radon**

**Coldwater, MI.** January is a great month for sprucing up your home with new linens, new towels, new bedding. All that sprucing can make your home look more appealing, but do you know what would make your home more healthful? Checking it for radon! The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency wants to remind local residents that January and February are great months to test their homes for radon levels.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas which occurs naturally from decaying uranium found in the soil and can accumulate to dangerous levels inside the home. Elevated levels of radon gas are the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is a nationwide problem that can be found in schools, houses, townhomes and condos of all shapes and sizes. And for some homes in Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties, it is prevalent in high concentrations.

“Testing for radon is the best way to know if people in your home are at risk from this cancer-causing gas,” said Rob Stauffer, Environmental Health Director with the tri-county health department. “Radon is a problem that can be easily fixed, and I urge all residents to test their homes. If your home is impacted by radon, it is fairly easy to fix.”

Although testing for radon is easy and inexpensive, only one in five homeowners have actually tested their homes for radon. Yet, each year more than 21,000 people die from lung cancer caused by exposure to radon.

The winter months are an especially good time to conduct a home test because radon can build to unhealthy levels during colder weather when windows and doors are kept closed.

Test kits are available free of charge from the health department. The kits are simple to use with easy testing and mailing instructions. Rob Stauffer adds “The only way to know if your home has radon is to test for it. So pick up your free test kit today!”

To learn more about radon or other environmental health services available through the health department, visit our website at [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org).

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