

***New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection***

Child Care Center Radon Testing Program

Parent Notification

Radon testing, and any subsequent mitigation, in child care centers will significantly reduce many children's exposure to radon in that environment, and lower their risk of lung cancer in future years.

Once child care center testing is completed, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends posting of the radon test results in a public area that parents can access easily. Along with the test results, a fact sheet must be posted to enable parents to interpret the results. This fact sheet ("Interpretation of Radon Testing Results") is available on the DEP Radon web site: www.njradon.org.

The DEP recommends that child care centers play an active role in educating parents and teachers about radon before, during and after testing. Providing parents with complete information will help prevent unnecessary alarm if elevated levels are found. This educational process can occur through mailings, public meetings, e-mail messages and newsletters. Samples of letters that should be sent to parents, as well as a parent fact sheet entitled "Radon in Child Care Centers: A Fact Sheet for Parents" are available on the DEP Radon web site: www.njradon.org.

By providing clear, complete information to parents and teachers about radon, as well as emphasizing the need to test at home, child care center officials will increase the likelihood of a cooperative response. At the same time, child care centers will be providing parents and teachers with valuable information about radon as a lifelong environmental health concern.

Sample Letters to Parents

SAMPLE A – At initiation of testing:

Dear Parents:

This is to inform you that during _____, the _____ (child care center name) will be conducting testing for radon. The purpose of the testing is to determine the radon concentrations in those rooms in the child care center in which radon might be of concern. These would include all frequently occupied rooms, such as classrooms and offices, which are in contact with the ground or are directly above unoccupied areas of the basement.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet for parents which provides answers for commonly asked questions about radon testing in child care centers.

Once testing is completed, the radon testing results will be posted at the _____, along with a fact sheet explaining how to interpret the results.

If you have any questions after reading the fact sheet, please contact _____ at the Child Care Center, or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or visit: www.njradon.org.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE B – Following initial testing if test results are all below 4 pCi/L:

Dear Parents:

As you may be aware, the _____ (child care center name) has completed testing of all rooms in contact with the ground at _____ [address] for radon.

We are pleased to report that all the tests were below 4 pCi/L, the level at which the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommend that action be taken. Therefore, no further action is needed at this time.

A complete list of radon testing results has been posted at the _____ along with information about how to interpret the results.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet for parents which provides answers for commonly asked questions about radon testing in child care centers. If you have any questions after reading it, please contact _____ at the Child Care Center, or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or visit: www.njradon.org.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE C – Following initial testing if some test results are 4 pCi/L or higher:

Dear Parents:

As you may be aware, the _____ child care center has completed testing of all rooms that have contact with the ground at _____[address], for radon.

The results of testing in the _____ child care center are as follows.

- _____ rooms (out of _____ rooms tested) had test results that were at or above 4 pCi/L. The test results for these rooms ranged from _____ to _____ pCi/L.
- All other rooms tested below 4 pCi/L.

A complete list of radon testing results has been posted at the _____ along with information about how to interpret the results.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency recommend that remediation be conducted when concentrations are 4 pCi/L or higher.

Remediation typically involves the installation of venting systems that vent radon gas from the ground beneath the building to the outside air, where it is quickly diluted to very low levels. In addition, adjustments may be made to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system to increase ventilation or air pressure so that radon levels are reduced.

An effort will be made to remediate the affected area of the child care center within a short time period. Because a child's exposure in a particular classroom represents a small part of their exposure over the whole year, continued use of the classroom during this period is not a health problem unless radon levels are extremely high. Children spend more than 75 percent of their time in the home environment.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet for parents which provides answers for commonly asked questions about radon testing in child care centers. If you have any questions, please contact

_____ at the child care center, or the DEP Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or visit:
www.njradon.org.

Sincerely,

12/03/10