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## **Healthy Homes Coalition Tests 100 Homes for Radon For Radon Action Month**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan is working with homeowners to test more than 100 homes for radon during the national Radon Action Month. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after tobacco smoke. Its presence in homes can easily be detected through a simple test kit.

“Testing homes for radon is simple to do. Testing helps families take the first step in protecting themselves from lung cancer,” said Paul Haan, Executive Director of the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that people cannot see, smell, or taste but could be present at a dangerous level in west Michigan homes. As the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the U.S. and the first leading cause among non-smokers, radon claims more than 20,000 lives annually. About 15% of home radon tests—one in seven—conducted in Kent County come back elevated according to the Healthy Homes Coalition.

If a family detects a high level of radon in the home, steps can be taken to protect the family. Haan said, “Most homebuyers today conduct a radon test when they buy a home. Current homeowners should test their homes now so that they can benefit from protection too, rather than just having to pay for the repairs when they sell the home.”

The Healthy Homes Coalition has offered free test kits through their social networks. They will also be offering free test kits to child care providers at the Kent Regional 4-C annual conference this Saturday. To celebrate their success of testing 100 homes, the Healthy Homes Coalition will continue to offer free radon test kits through Friday, February 4. After February 4, kits will be sold for \$5.00 each. The Healthy Homes Coalition is located at 742 Franklin SE in Grand Rapids.

For more information, call (616) 241-3300 or visit [www.HealthyHomesCoalition.org/radon](http://www.HealthyHomesCoalition.org/radon).

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