



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County



Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner
Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

Press Release

For Immediate Release
January 6, 2025

Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer
937-374-5669 office / 937-283-5178 cell / lfox@gcph.info

1 in 15 Homes in the U.S. Have High Radon Levels ***Help Protect Your Community this January***

GREENE COUNTY, OH—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as National Radon Action Month. This January, raise awareness about the risks of radon in your community — and teach others how to test their homes.

An estimated 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. has high radon levels, and high radon levels can be a risk anywhere. Living in a home with high radon levels can be dangerous for your health. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and it is estimated to cause over 20,000 deaths each year in the U.S. Because of the ways that radon and tobacco smoke damage the lungs, high radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke. Their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than non-smokers.

Radon, a radioactive gas, builds up in homes over time and can't be seen, tasted, or smelled — so it's easy for radon problems to go unnoticed. The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test your home. The Surgeon General recommends that all homes get tested for radon. Home radon tests are simple and inexpensive — and can help save lives.

Homeowners can test their homes with a simple kit, and if they have high radon levels, they can fix them. A licensed radon mitigation contractor can help with radon reduction repairs.

You can raise radon awareness in your community during National Radon Action Month by:

- Contacting local school systems to encourage radon education at school
- Holding an informal talk in your local library or other community space
- Writing a letter to your local newspaper about the risks of radon and the importance of testing your home
- Organizing a time for everyone in your neighborhood to test their homes together

Be sure to listen to Public Health Matters, a bi-monthly podcast from Greene County Public Health, which will be available on Wednesday, January 15. The guest will be Brenden Gitzinger, owner of Environmental Doctor of Dayton. He will discuss radon, its dangers and health impacts, and how to test your home for this invasive natural gas. You can listen for free wherever you get your podcasts.

-cont'd-



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County



Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner
Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

For more information about National Radon Action Month, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-month-consumer-information>. To learn how to test your home or where to find a test kit, call the National Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236). To learn more about radon, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/radonEPA> or <http://www.cdc.gov/radon>

Greene County Public Health...
Your Accredited and Trusted Local Public Health Authority Since 1920

###