



October 23, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

RE: Radon Screening in Central Okanagan Schools 2020-2022 & Recommendation for Household Testing

As part of Central Okanagan Public Schools ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our students and staff, radon gas screening will be completed throughout our schools and some participating Independent Schools during the winters of 2020/21 and 2021/22. This project will be completed with the assistance of Interior Health, [Take Action on Radon](#), the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists ([CARST](#)), Health Canada, and the [Regional Air Quality program](#).

Radon is a radioactive gas that can be found in buildings, and exposure to elevated levels is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Testing and reducing radon exposure will reduce the risk to staff and students. You may see detectors hanging in classrooms, administrative offices and the gym. They will look like black pill containers. They will need to stay in the same location for the full screening duration of 91 days or more.

After the screening testing is completed and results are available, the results will be shared on the schools' website along with general information. If school radon levels are high, then additional testing and/or mitigation plans will be explored in accordance with Health Canada's suggested timeframes. Health Canada and Interior Health recommend you test your home for radon as well. Central Okanagan Schools are taking action for the school environment, and we encourage you to take action at home.

The Central Okanagan region is known to have high radon levels, but levels can vary from house to house even in the same neighborhood. Testing is recommended to be completed for a minimum of 91 days during the heating season, so now is a great time to start testing your indoor environments (home, work, leisure). Residents can go online to rdco.com/radonchallenge to learn more about radon gas and pre-register to get one free radon test kit by Monday, October 26. This program is offering one free test kit per property, and limited quantities are available. Radon kits are also available for purchase through the BC Lung Association Radon Aware program. To order a long-term test kit, visit radonaware.ca/radon-resources or call 1-800-665-LUNG (5864).

For more information about radon, please check out the following links:

- [Health Canada – Radon gas: it's in your home](#)
- [BC Lung Association – Radon Aware](#)
- [Interior Health Authority – Radon webpage](#)
- [Take Action on Radon](#)
- [Canadian – National Radon Proficiency Program \(C-NRPP\)](#)

If you have any technical measurement or mitigation questions, please contact: Greg Baytalan, Air Quality Specialist at Interior Health by phone at 250- 469-7070 ext. 12273 or email at Greg.Baytalan@interiorhealth.ca.

Regards,

Dave Cavezza

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