

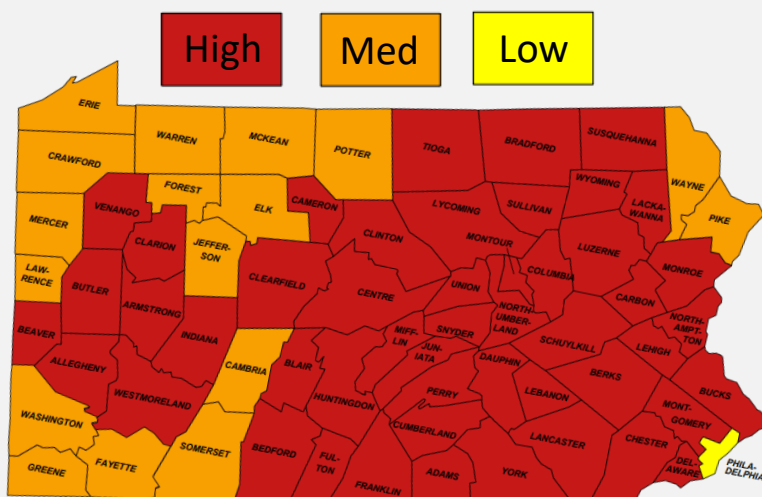
# Has Your Childcare Facility Been Tested for **Radon**?



Radon is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., behind smoking.

You cannot see or smell radon. It is a radioactive gas that is naturally released from rocks, soil, and water.

Radon can build up in poorly-ventilated buildings. Radon moves through cracks in the foundation, soil, or bedrock.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Potential for Elevated Indoor Radon Levels, by  
County

No matter which county you are in, the **only way** to know if your facility has high radon levels is to **test** for it.

## What Can You Do?

1

**Purchase** a radon test kit from a local hardware store, for \$20 - \$30.

2

**Test** your facility, by placing the test in the basement or lowest floor.

Test Demonstration Video:



3

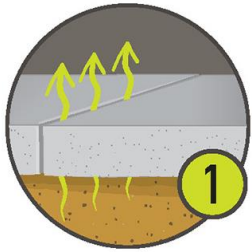
**Send the test to an approved laboratory.** If the levels are at or above **4 picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L)**, retest.

4

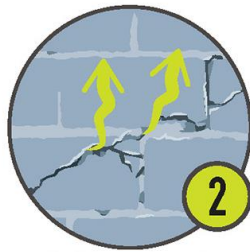
**Mitigate** radon in your facility if levels are high, with a radon reduction system.



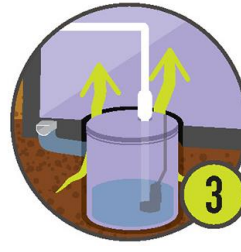
# How Radon Can Get Into Your Facility:



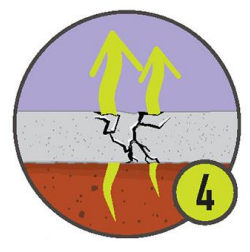
Construction joints



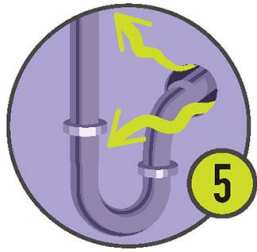
Cavities and cracks inside walls



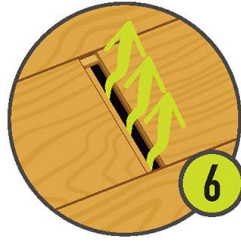
Sump pump



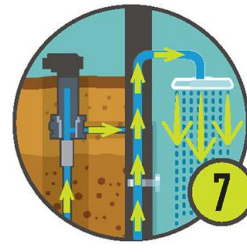
Cracks in solid floors



Gaps around service pipes



Gaps in suspended floors



Private wells and groundwater supplies\*

\*High radon levels in the water supply are more likely when its source is groundwater such as private wells or a public water supply system that uses groundwater. Most public water supplies are sourced from surface water (lakes, rivers, and reservoirs)

Radon levels **can vary** from building to building and change over time. Even if your neighbor's home or building has been tested, you should **still check yours** and **repeat testing every 3-5 years**.

Radon is **elevated** if **two or more tests** are at or above **4 pCi/L**.  
High radon levels in a building **can be reduced**.

If radon tests reveal high levels in your building, contact the **PA Department of Environmental Protection's Radon Hotline** (800-237-2366) for information on reducing radon levels.



## Additional Resources

[Pennsylvania DEP Radon Division](#)



[CDC Radon](#)



[U.S. EPA Citizen's Guide to Radon](#)



[American Lung Association Radon](#)



Contact the Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology

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[www.health.pa.gov/topics/envirohealth](http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/envirohealth)