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**Taney County Health Department**



**Public Health**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Home Test Kit Makes It Easy to Check for Dangerous Radon Gas**

The Taney County Health Department is encouraging residents to test their homes for Radon gas as part of National Radon Action Month. Radon gas exposure does not cause immediate symptoms but is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is responsible for more than 21,000 deaths each year in the United States.

The only way for a homeowner to find out if there is a problem with Radon in the home is to use a test kit.

“The key to overcoming this public health risk in our community is first to be aware and then take action to make every home in our community healthier,” said Robert Reynolds, Environmental Public Health Specialist for Taney County Health Department.

Last year, Reynolds studied the harmful effects of Radon exposure and completed training sessions in Washington D.C. focused on safer and healthier radon-resistant construction techniques. “We owe it to our families to provide the best possible indoor air quality,” Reynolds said.

All types of homes are candidates for testing. Radon comes from the natural breakdown of soil, rock, and water and can enter a home through cracks in the foundation or other openings, such as holes or pipes.

Affordable radon test kits are available at home improvement and hardware stores. Test kits are also offered free of charge through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

After a home is tested, simple steps such as frequent ventilation can greatly reduce the harmful effects of long term contact with Radon.

Missouri residents can request a Free Radon Sample Kit by accessing the Taney County Health Department website at [www.taneycohealth.org](http://www.taneycohealth.org). Click the “Radon” banner for a link to the request form on the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services website or call the Taney County Health Department at (417) 334-4544 or (417) 546-4725.

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