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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30th, 2024

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is Offering Free Radon Home Tests During Radon Action Month

During January, donate a nonperishable food item or toiletry item and receive a free home radon test kit.

January is Radon Action Month, and Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD), together with Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA), is using this month to educate about the dangers of radon gas. In January, all BLDHD's offices are offering home radon test kits. If you donate a nonperishable food item or toiletry item in January through our "Give a Can & Get a Kit!" event, your home radon test kit is free. All donations collected this month will be given to local food pantries.

Radon is a leading source of lung cancer among non-smokers, causing thousands of deaths each year. Small cracks in your home's foundation can grow over time as it settles, making paths for radon to enter your home from the ground. NMPHA and BLDHD encourage you to test your home for radon during Radon Action Month. By doing so, you can play a crucial role in creating healthier homes and communities.

"Radon is a major health concern that is often ignored because it is invisible and odorless," said Dan Thorell, Health Officer. "The best time to test your home is winter, as doors and windows are closed, and radon is trapped indoors. Testing for radon is easy, and if higher levels are found, there are ways to reduce exposure. BLDHD is proud to offer free radon home kits this month to help our community members stay safe and healthy."

Learn more about radon by visiting our [BLDHD website](http://www.bldhd.org) or by calling our Environmental Health department at 231-882-4409. For additional information about radon, visit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) page at <https://www.epa.gov/radon> or the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) page at <http://www.michigan.gov/radon>.

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