



Florence County Health Department

501 Lake Ave PO Box 410 Florence, Wisconsin 54121 715-528-4837
A.Seibold, RN, MS Health Officer/Director



NEWS RELEASE

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Annette Seibold
Florence County Health Department
715-528-4837
FAX 715-528-5269
aseibold@co.florence.wi.us

January is Radon Awareness Month

[Florence, WI] –

Do you know what the radon level is in your home? Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas, found naturally in the soil. The gas can seep into homes and buildings through the foundation. Exposure over time can be a cause of lung cancer. Since you cannot see or smell radon, the only way to be sure of the amount of radon in your home is to perform a test.

Smoking or vaping is the leading cause of lung and bronchus cancers. Quitting smoking, vaping or smokeless tobacco should be a top goal for 2021. The second leading cause of lung cancer is radon exposure. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers because it often goes undetected in the living environment.

Every home should be tested for radon once. Winter months are ideal because doors and windows are kept closed so the test is more accurate. Kits are available from the Florence County Health Department for \$10 or from most hardware stores at a modest cost. The EPA standard of a safe level in the home is less than 4 picocuries per liter. The total number of radon tests completed in the state of Wisconsin in 2019 was 19,592, with 50% of those tests having a result higher than the EPA recommended standard of less than 4 picocuries per liter. Florence County is above the state level with 55% of the tests being above the EPA standard. The test is easy to do with a simple package which is mailed in to test the results.

For more information, go to the Florence County Health Department webpage at <http://www.florencecountywi.com/> or you may call the Florence County Health Department at 715-528-4837, visit the state website at www.lowradon.org, or visit the EPA site at www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html. The Florence County Health Department is located on the first floor of the courthouse or call Sara Jerue at 715-528-3426. The department is open 8:30-4p Monday through Friday, closed for lunch from 12-12:30. Need health insurance? Visit access.wi.gov to see if you qualify for benefits.

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