State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

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Lt. Governor

MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

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Dear Health Officers:

The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) joins with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to urge all New Jersey residents to protect their family's health by testing their home for radon. The participation of Health Officers in National Radon Awareness Month will help New Jersey reach our Healthy New Jersey 2020 goal of increasing the percentage of New Jersey homes ever tested for radon to 35%. Currently only 25.4% of New Jersey residences have been tested for radon.

Radon is a serious health risk. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. The risk of lung cancer is highest among smokers who are also exposed to radon, so I especially encourage you to urge people who smoke to test their homes.

Many New Jersey residents live in moderate to high risk radon areas. Radon potential varies widely across New Jersey, and DEP has mapped radon potential by county and municipality, http://www.state.nj.us/dep/rpp/radon/radonin.htm. However, all residents are urged to test for radon since high radon homes have been found throughout New Jersey.

Fortunately, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive. DEP's Radon Program can provide a list of certified companies that provide radon testing services or residents can obtain do-it-yourself test kits from many hardware stores. Residents who want more information should contact the DEP Radon Program at (800) 648-0394 or www.njradon.org. DOH has radon information available on our new web pages, http://www.nj.gov/health/epht/radon.shtml.

Thank you for expressing interest in promoting Radon Awareness Month in your community. Together we can save lives by reducing exposure to radon.

Sincerely,

Mary E. O'Dowd

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Commissioner