**MARYLAND RADON AWARENESS WEEK FACT SHEET**

* Radon is an invisible, odorless gas found in the earth’s soil that can reach harmful levels when trapped in areas like basements and first floors of homes.
* The longer an individual or family are exposed to radon, the greater the risk of developing lung cancer.
* Radon exposure is the leading preventable cause of lung cancer after smoking.
* You can protect your family and yourself from radon exposure by doing a radon test in your home.
* Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and inexpensive.
* Radon test kits can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores or directly from radon testing companies. Many are priced under $25.00.
* Once you fix the radon problem, you reduce your family’s risk of developing lung cancer.
* If you are building a new home, ask about radon-resistant new construction, which can prevent radon from becoming a problem, even if it’s in the ground.
* Maryland Department of the Environment has a website with more information about radon, radon testing, and how to fix radon in homes. Visit [www.mde.maryland.gov/radon](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/radon) to learn more about how to protect your family from radon exposure.
* Local health departments have more information, and you can call for more information toll-free 1-866-703-3266.