

American Lung Association in West Virginia Announces Radon Awareness and Risk Reduction Program

Free Radon Test Kits for 16 Targeted Counties

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, responsible for thousands of deaths each year.

The American Lung Association in West Virginia unveiled its Radon Awareness and Risk Reduction program to help people protect their health from the lung cancer-causing radon gas. As part of the program, The American Lung Association in West Virginia will provide radon testing in 16 counties, representing more than 220,000 households - mostly in the Northern and Eastern regions - in West Virginia, where elevated radon results have been found.

During this multi-faceted outreach effort, the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic expects to reach 6,000 individuals directly through the distribution of 2,750 radon test kits; with 2,000 of the kits provided to households and 750 distributed to the public through local schools and community outreach efforts, such as health fairs and other events.

“You can’t see, taste or smell radon, but it is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, which is the number one cancer killer,” said Deborah P. Brown, President and CEO, American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic. “This naturally occurring gas comes into our homes through spaces in the walls, floors, basements and the foundation. Too many people do not know that they may have this dangerous threat in their homes. Testing is the only way for people to know their true risk of exposure. These free test kits are an easy way to find out if your family is living in a healthy home or one ridden with radon.”

In partnership with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, the American Lung Association in West Virginia’s outreach campaign will promote radon testing among residents in the following 16 counties: **Brooke, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Marshall, Mercer, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Ohio, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Summers and Tucker**. Residents of the listed counties will be able to request a free radon kit by visiting the following website: www.lungradonkits.org. For additional information about the radon test kits, please contact Debbie Seals at (304) 342-6600, extension 261.

“The goal of our partnership is to increase public awareness about the health risks of radon, to increase testing for it and to encourage radon mitigation in West Virginia,” said Brown.

Fighting radon requires workable strategies, and the American Lung Association led the development of the National Radon Action Plan to provide those tools. In 2016, former Vice President Joe Biden’s Cancer Moonshot report cited the National Radon Action Plan as a leading effort to save lives. Learn more about radon at www.Lung.org/radon or call the Lung Association’s toll-free Lung HelpLine (1-800-LUNGUSA).

About the American Lung Association in West Virginia

The American Lung Association in West Virginia is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association in West Virginia is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.