



January 18, 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students:

Re: Radon Testing at Schools

We are pleased to announce that Interior Health is collaborating with schools on a radon testing pilot project. This involves working closely with all school districts and participating independent schools. The project includes reviewing radon results and supplementing ongoing testing efforts. Interior Health will work with school management to reduce radon levels where high levels are found.

Radon is a radioactive gas that is formed naturally in the ground. It has no colour, odour, or taste and can accumulate indoors, particularly in basements and ground floors. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada after smoking. Spending long periods of time in rooms where radon is present can increase the chance of developing lung cancer, and the risk is higher for people who smoke. The only way to know radon levels is to test for it.

According to the BC Centre for Disease Control, radon levels are generally higher in the Interior region than other areas of the province. While this project focuses on schools, this setting only accounts for part of the total exposure people may receive. Radon may be present in other buildings in your community, including homes. We encourage you to test your home for radon.

For more information and resources about radon in BC and to order a long-term test kit visit:

- [Interior Health's Radon Information Page](#) - Radon Overview and Resources
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) - Radon Overview and Mapping Information
- [BC Lung Foundation](#) - Long-Term Test Kit Information and Radon Projects in BC

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Healthy Schools team at HealthySchools@interiorhealth.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin Lavoie
Interim Chief Medical Health Officer

Dr. Carol Fenton
Medical Health Officer

Dr. Jonathan Malo
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Dr. Silvina Mema
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Dr. Sue Pollock
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Dr. Fatemeh Sabet
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Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.