January is National Radon Action Month. Do you know your number? Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer, next to smoking. In homes where cigarette smoking occurs, the risks will significantly increase. Radon is found in soil and rock and is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas, which leaks into homes through cracks or openings in basement walls, ground floors and crawl spaces.

“Measuring the radon levels in households can significantly reduce the risk of lung cancer for families” says Scott Smith, Environmental Health Director for District Health Department No. 4. “Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive, and homes with elevated levels can be fixed.”

Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance recommends that all homes be tested. Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon since there are no warning signs or symptoms from exposure. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality estimates 1 out of 8 homes in the Michigan have elevated radon levels.

The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test it! For more information contact your local health department.

January 28 through February 1, 2019, District Health Department No. 4 will be offering discounted radon kits for $5.00.