

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

SCHOOL RADON TESTING PROGRAM

Sample Letters to Parents

SAMPLE A – At initiation of testing:

Dear Parents:

This is to inform you that during _____, the _____ School will be conducting testing for radon. The purpose of the testing is to determine the radon concentrations in all frequently occupied rooms, such as classrooms and offices, which are in contact with the ground or are directly above unoccupied areas of the basement.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet, “Radon in Schools: Fact Sheet for Parents” which provides answers for commonly asked questions about radon testing in schools. Once testing is completed, the radon testing results will be posted at the _____, along with a fact sheet explaining how to interpret the results.

If you have any questions after reading the fact sheet, please contact _____ at the School, or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or visit www.njradon.org.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE B – Following initial testing if test results are all below 4 pCi/L:

Dear Parents:

As you may be aware, the _____ School District has completed radon testing in the _____ School, at _____ [address]. We are pleased to report that all the tests in the _____ School were below 4 pCi/L, the level at which the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommend that action be taken. Therefore, no further action is needed at this time.

A complete list of radon testing results has been posted at the _____ along with information about how to interpret the results.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet, "Radon in Schools: Fact Sheet for Parents" which provides answers for commonly asked questions about radon testing in schools. If you have any questions after reading it, please contact _____ at the School, or DEP Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or visit www.njradon.org.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE C – Following initial testing if some test results are 4 pCi/L or higher:

Dear Parents:

As you may be aware, the _____ School District has completed radon testing in the _____ School, at _____ [address]. The results of testing in the _____ School are as follows.

- ___ rooms (out of ___ rooms tested) had test results that were at or above 4 pCi/L. The test results for these rooms ranged from ___ to ___ pCi/L.
- All other rooms tested below 4 pCi/L.

A complete list of radon testing results has been posted at the _____ along with information about how to interpret the results.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency recommend that remediation be conducted when concentrations are 4 pCi/L or higher. Remediation typically involves the installation of venting systems that vent radon gas from the ground beneath the building to the outside air, where it is quickly diluted to very low levels. In addition, adjustments may be made to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system to increase ventilation or air pressure so that radon levels are reduced.

An effort will be made to remediate the affected area of the school within a short time period. Because a child's exposure in a particular classroom represents a small part of their exposure over the whole year, continued use of the classroom during this period is not a health problem unless radon levels are extremely high. Children spend 12 percent of their time in school over a full year, compared with more than 75 percent of their time spent in the home environment.

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet, "Radon in Schools: Fact Sheet for Parents" which provides answers for commonly asked questions about radon testing in schools. If you have any questions, please contact _____ at the School, or the DEP Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or visit www.njradon.org.

Sincerely,