

***New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection***

**SCHOOL RADON TESTING PROGRAM**

**Understanding Radon Testing Results**

***HOW DO I READ THE SCHOOL RADON TEST RESULTS?***

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that all frequently occupied rooms (such as classrooms and offices) that are in contact with the ground, or are directly above unoccupied areas of the basement, should be tested. Every first-floor or basement room tested should have a number; you may need to ask for the coding scheme if the numbers are codes. Each room should have a number on the test results form next to the units “pCi/L,” or “picocuries per liter.” That is its radon concentration.

***WHAT LEVEL OF RADON IS A PROBLEM AND HOW CAN IT BE FIXED?***

The DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommend that action be taken to reduce levels if the concentration of radon is 4 pCi/L or higher. For school rooms with levels of 4 pCi/L or more, venting systems can be installed that vent radon gas from below the ground to the outside, where it is quickly diluted to very low levels. Sometimes heating-ventilation-air conditioning systems are adjusted to increase ventilation or air pressure so that radon levels are reduced.

***SHOULD CHILDREN BE RELOCATED IF RADON LEVELS ARE HIGH?***

EPA recommends that if radon concentrations are near 100 pCi/L, schools should contact the state radon office and consider relocating classrooms until levels are reduced. In many cases, radon levels can temporarily be reduced by: 1) increasing ventilation to dilute the radon, or 2) increasing air pressure to keep radon from entering the classroom.

***For further information, contact:***

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**Radon Section**

**(800) 648-0394 or (609) 984-5425**

**[www.njradon.org](http://www.njradon.org)**