

# Radon Management Guideline

The EPA considers radon “among the most serious environmental health problems facing us today “. There has been discussion in Vermont legislation that address radon in schools so it’s essential to understand how Radon may play a part in your school.

## What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas and can be present within your school. You cannot see it, smell it, or taste it so the only way to know if it exists in your school is a test. The EPA notes that radon causes lung cancer, however “most radon-related lung cancers develop in smokers” per the American Cancer Society. Naturally occurring radon has the same affect and so mitigation techniques within buildings have been developed. For more information visit the Vermont Department of Health’s webpage: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/school/radon-schools>.

## Testing for Radon

Given that there’s been discussion in Vermont’s legislation it’s judicious to be proactive and have **free** testing performed by the Vermont Department of Health’s Radon Program: [http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ENV\\_HS\\_Radon\\_Letter\\_to\\_School\\_Nurse.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ENV_HS_Radon_Letter_to_School_Nurse.pdf). Radon levels fluctuate on a daily basis throughout the year and the testing is a rather difficult endeavor for schools so the EPA has produced a thorough document/strategy to measure radon levels in all schools across the country: <https://www.epa.gov/radon/radon-schools>. It’s important to note that any test results higher than 4 pCi/L (picoCuries per liter) would be considered above the EPA’s action level.



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## Mitigate Radon in Your School

If the test concludes that radon levels are higher than 4 pCi/L then there are various solutions to mitigate the higher levels. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and The American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) have produced the [Radon Mitigation Standards for Schools and Large Buildings](#), “to address the complexities of properly mitigating radon in large and complicated building structures”. Any solution should be determined by a qualified professional and mitigated by a competent contractor. Multi-Line’s safety grant can be applied for those solutions and will need to be reviewed by the Risk Management Team.

## How Should Your School Proceed?

1. First review the attached and referenced material in this resource and/or call Mutli-Line’s Risk Management Team with questions.
2. Meet with your in-house safety/facility personnel to discuss and appoint someone in charge of the process.
3. Contact the Department of Health’s Radon Program to schedule a free test.
4. If the test results are found to be at the EPA’s action level then work with the Department of Health for their suggested mitigation plan.
5. If the scope of work for the mitigation plan requires a third party then ensure that the plan was proposed by a qualified professional and the work is performed by a competent contractor.
6. Contact Multi-Line’s Risk Management Team if assistance is needed at any point of the process.

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