

MEDIA RELEASE

media@lakelandsph.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lakelands Public Health Offering 750 Free Radon Test Kits to Community

Radon, an invisible gas, is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in Canada.

(December 15th, 2025) – Lakelands Public Health is pleased to be offering 750 free radon test kits to community members this year, as part of the <u>Evict Radon</u> National Study. Community members who receive a kit must agree to be a part of the study, set up the device for at least 91 days, and then send the kit (pre-paid envelope included) to be analyzed.

"The Lakelands Public Health region has been identified as priority for the researchers at Evict Radon – not necessarily because there are high levels of radon in our area, but because there is insufficient data about the radon levels in our area," said Dr. Thomas Piggott, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer at Lakelands Public Health. "The study results will help us learn more about radon levels in our community to support future programming so that we can work with municipalities to better understand and mitigate local risks," he added.

What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium found in rocks and soil. It can seep into cracks, gaps, and openings in a home's foundation. When radon enters confined spaces, like a house, it can build up and become harmful.

Radon is invisible, odourless, and tasteless, so testing is the only way to know how much radon is in one's home and whether action is needed. When inhaled, radon traps radioactive particles in the lungs. This creates damage and, over years, can develop into lung cancer. In Canada, radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer – after tobacco smoke.

Where Can I Get a Kit?

Test kits are limited to one per household and must be picked up by a person who lives in the residence. Test kits are available while quantities last, and will be distributed "first come, first served". Starting today, December 15, 2025, radon test kits can be picked up at:

- Northumberland County, Haliburton County, and the City of Kawartha Lakes:
 - Local public libraries
- County of Peterborough:
 - Local municipal offices
- City of Peterborough:
 - o Lakelands Public Health Peterborough Office, 3rd Floor, 185 King Street

Distribution locations are subject to change, and new locations may be added. Visit <u>LakelandsPH.ca/radon</u> or contact our office to determine the location closest to you. Community members of Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, or Hiawatha First Nation who are interested in participating in the Evict Radon National Study are invited to contact Lakelands Public Health for more information.

More Information

Radon kits can also be purchased from EvictRadon.org. To learn more about the health effects of radon, visit LakelandsPH.ca/radon.

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About Lakelands Public Health

Lakelands Public Health serves the County of Haliburton, the City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, and the City and County of Peterborough. The organization works to protect health, prevent illness and injury, and promote overall well-being for everyone who lives, works, and learns in the region, including urban and rural communities as well as Alderville, Curve Lake, and Hiawatha First Nations.

Established through the voluntary merger of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough Public Health, Lakelands Public Health combines local knowledge, public health expertise, and a strong community focus to deliver programs and services that respond to local needs. These include infectious disease prevention and control, healthy living initiatives, environmental health, school and family health programs, and emergency preparedness. For more information, visit <u>LakelandsPH.ca</u>.

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