



Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

February 3, 2017

Dear Child Care Owners/Directors,

The deadline to have your facility tested for radon is approaching. As a reminder, all child care facilities licensed before January 14, 2016, must be tested for radon by May 1, 2017. As facilities have been tested for radon there have been concerns brought to our attention. These concerns include testing protocols, testing times, and how to communicate results to parents and staff effectively without causing undue alarm.

Below is a list of items to keep in mind when conducting radon testing in your facility:

- While it is more convenient to test your facility during a break when the facility is closed, it is important to test during normal operating hours. Testing while a building is closed can result in elevated test results as air circulation is diminished when a facility is not operating.
- If you hire someone to do radon testing it is important to verify that they are a certified measurement contractor and that they are using the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) *Protocol for Conducting Radon and Radon Decay Measurements in Schools and Large Buildings, 2014*.
- If you choose to do radon testing yourself it is strongly recommended that you complete the free 30 minute quick train course developed specifically for self testing child care facilities. The course can be accessed at [www.co.train.org](http://www.co.train.org) and the course ID is 1063938. Additional guidance on radon testing can be found on our website at [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/child-care](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/child-care).
- Test kits should be placed away from exterior walls and at least 30 inches above the ground. It is okay to hang them from ceilings so they are out of reach of children as long as they are not placed under a vent.
- Many local health departments are offering radon testing assistance to child care providers. See the enclosed list to find out if assistance is offered in your county.

If you receive results that are greater than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended action limit of 4.0 picocuries per liter of air, do not panic. It is always recommended that you do a second test, either short term or long term, depending on the radon level to determine if the result is accurate. Lowering radon levels is strongly recommended if results confirmed through secondary testing are above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level. This can be achieved in a number of different ways but it is specific to each facility and may take time. It is safe for facilities to remain open while child care providers are testing and working to lower radon levels. You are doing the right thing by testing your facility and following the recommended guidelines.

Lastly, to address the concerns raised by staff and parents there is an enclosed letter that you are welcome to share with them. Panicked reactions to radon results can occur when there is a lack of understanding about radon and how people are exposed. Working in or having a child in a child care facility is only one place for radon exposure. The greatest risk of exposure to radon is in persons home. More than 50% of the homes in Colorado have radon levels above the EPA recommended action limit of 4.0 picocuries per liter of air. While minimizing the exposure in child care settings is important it is also important for homes to be tested. We encourage all Coloradans to test for radon in their homes.



Many local health departments offer free test kits for residents to test their home. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) also offers coupons for free test kits. For more information about obtaining a free test kit, you can contact your local health department or visit the CDPHE website at [www.coloradoradon.info](http://www.coloradoradon.info).

Below you will find the contact information for agencies that are offering assistance to child care facilities with radon testing.

| City or County         | Contact           | Phone         | E-mail   |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Adams County           | TCHD              | (720)200-1670 | <a href="mailto:EHChildcare@tchd.org">EHChildcare@tchd.org</a>                           |
| Arapahoe County        | TCHD              | (720)200-1670 | <a href="mailto:EHChildcare@tchd.org">EHChildcare@tchd.org</a>                           |
| Archuleta County       | Wendy Rice        | (970)382-6461 | <a href="mailto:Wendy.rice@colostate.edu">Wendy.rice@colostate.edu</a>                   |
| Aspen, City of         | Jannette Whitcomb | (970)920-5069 | <a href="mailto:Jannette.whitcomb@cityofaspen.com">Jannette.whitcomb@cityofaspen.com</a> |
| Baca County            | Seth Odette       | (719)336-8721 | <a href="mailto:sodette@prowerscounty.net">sodette@prowerscounty.net</a>                 |
| Bent County            | Seth Odette       | (719)336-8721 | <a href="mailto:sodette@prowerscounty.net">sodette@prowerscounty.net</a>                 |
| Boulder County         | Sarah Scully      | (303)413-7502 | <a href="mailto:sscully@bouldercounty.org">sscully@bouldercounty.org</a>                 |
| Custer County          | John Martinez     | (719)846-2213 | <a href="mailto:jmartinez@la-h-health.org">jmartinez@la-h-health.org</a>                 |
| Delta County           | Ken Nordstrom     | (970)874-2169 | <a href="mailto:knordstrom@deltacounty.com">knordstrom@deltacounty.com</a>               |
| Denver City and County | Lacey Puetz       | (720)865-2892 | <a href="mailto:Lacey.puetz@denvergov.org">Lacey.puetz@denvergov.org</a>                 |
| Dolores County         | Wendy Rice        | (970)382-6461 | <a href="mailto:Wendy.rice@colostate.edu">Wendy.rice@colostate.edu</a>                   |
| Douglas County         | TCHD              | (720)200-1670 | <a href="mailto:EHChildcare@tchd.org">EHChildcare@tchd.org</a>                           |
| Eagle County           | Env. Health       | (970)328-8755 | <a href="mailto:environment@eaglecounty.us">environment@eaglecounty.us</a>               |
| Fort Collins, City of  | Mary Pat Aardrup  | (970)416-2832 | <a href="mailto:mpaardrup@fcgov.com">mpaardrup@fcgov.com</a>                             |
| Garfield County        | Morgan Hill       | (970)665-6383 | <a href="mailto:mhill@garfield-county.com">mhill@garfield-county.com</a>                 |
| Gunnison County        | Ken Nordstrom     | (970)874-2169 | <a href="mailto:knordstrom@deltacounty.com">knordstrom@deltacounty.com</a>               |
| Hinsdale County        | Ken Nordstrom     | (970)874-2169 | <a href="mailto:knordstrom@deltacounty.com">knordstrom@deltacounty.com</a>               |
| Huerfano County        | John Martinez     | (719)846-2213 | <a href="mailto:jmartinez@la-h-health.org">jmartinez@la-h-health.org</a>                 |
| Jefferson County       | Craig Sanders     | (303)271-5759 | <a href="mailto:csanders@jeffco.us">csanders@jeffco.us</a>                               |
| Kiowa County           | Seth Odette       | (719)336-8721 | <a href="mailto:sodette@prowerscounty.net">sodette@prowerscounty.net</a>                 |
| La Plata County        | Wendy Rice        | (970)382-6461 | <a href="mailto:Wendy.rice@colostate.edu">Wendy.rice@colostate.edu</a>                   |
| Larimer County         | Karen Crumbaker   | (970)498-6003 | <a href="mailto:kcrumbaker@larimer.org">kcrumbaker@larimer.org</a>                       |
| Las Animas County      | John Martinez     | (719)846-2213 | <a href="mailto:jmartinez@la-h-health.org">jmartinez@la-h-health.org</a>                 |
| Logan County           | Amber Donovan     | (970)854-2717 | <a href="mailto:amberd@nchd.org">amberd@nchd.org</a>                                     |
| Montezuma County       | Wendy Rice        | (970)382-6461 | <a href="mailto:Wendy.rice@colostate.edu">Wendy.rice@colostate.edu</a>                   |
| Montrose County        | Ken Nordstrom     | (970)874-2169 | <a href="mailto:knordstrom@deltacounty.com">knordstrom@deltacounty.com</a>               |
| Morgan County          | Amber Donovan     | (970)854-2717 | <a href="mailto:amberd@nchd.org">amberd@nchd.org</a>                                     |
| Ouray County           | Ken Nordstrom     | (970)874-2169 | <a href="mailto:knordstrom@deltacounty.com">knordstrom@deltacounty.com</a>               |
| Phillips County        | Amber Donovan     | (970)854-2717 | <a href="mailto:amberd@nchd.org">amberd@nchd.org</a>                                     |
| Prowers County         | Seth Odette       | (719)336-8721 | <a href="mailto:sodette@prowerscounty.net">sodette@prowerscounty.net</a>                 |
| Pueblo City and County | Vicki Carlton     | (719)583-4340 | <a href="mailto:Vicki.carlton@pueblocounty.us">Vicki.carlton@pueblocounty.us</a>         |
| San Juan County        | Wendy Rice        | (970)382-6461 | <a href="mailto:Wendy.rice@colostate.edu">Wendy.rice@colostate.edu</a>                   |
| San Miguel County      | Ken Nordstrom     | (970)874-2169 | <a href="mailto:knordstrom@deltacounty.com">knordstrom@deltacounty.com</a>               |
| Sedgwick County        | Amber Donovan     | (970)854-2717 | <a href="mailto:amberd@nchd.org">amberd@nchd.org</a>                                     |
| Summit County          | Maya Kulick       | (970)668-4072 | <a href="mailto:Maya.kulick@summitcountyco.gov">Maya.kulick@summitcountyco.gov</a>       |
| Washington County      | Amber Donovan     | (970)854-2717 | <a href="mailto:amberd@nchd.org">amberd@nchd.org</a>                                     |
| Weld County            | Gabrielle Vergara | (970)400-2226 | <a href="mailto:gvergara@co.weld.co.us">gvergara@co.weld.co.us</a>                       |
| Yuma County            | Amber Donovan     | (970)854-2717 | <a href="mailto:amberd@nchd.org">amberd@nchd.org</a>                                     |

Should you have any additional questions or concerns please contact your local health department or CDPHE at 303-692-3645.





Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

February 3, 2017

Dear Providers and Parents/Guardians of a Child in a Colorado Child Care Facility,

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulates health and sanitation in child care facilities in the state. The regulations were updated in 2016 to include a new requirement. By May 1, 2017 radon testing must be completed for all child care facilities. Requiring child care providers to test for radon gives them data they need to make informed decisions about how to address any radon issues they may have.

CDPHE, in partnership with local public health agencies, provides information and guidance to all child care providers about radon testing. This includes how and when to test for radon and what to do with the results. It is important to understand radon testing is a process that may require additional testing before taking action. People should not be overly concerned by initial results.

Lowering radon levels is strongly recommended if results confirmed through secondary testing are above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter of air. This can be achieved in a number of different ways but is specific to each facility and may take time. It is safe for facilities to remain open while child care providers are testing and working to lower radon levels.

#### About Radon

- Radon is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas present in the soil. The gas enters homes and buildings through openings and small cracks in the foundation.
- Radon can be a serious health hazard, but it is important to understand more about it. Although radon can be dangerous, it's not like more common immediate health threats, such as carbon monoxide. The risk of long term exposure to radon is lung cancer. The risk of developing lung cancer increases with exposure to higher radon levels for a longer period of time.
- The majority of an individual's exposure to radon is at home, so we urge all homeowners to test their residences. Many local health departments offer free test kits for residents to test their home. CDPHE also offers coupons for free test kits. For more information about obtaining a free test kit you can contact your local health department or visit the CDPHE website at [www.coloradoradon.info](http://www.coloradoradon.info).
- Every Coloradan should be concerned but not panicked about radon. Everyone's goal should be to reduce their family's exposure to radon at home where they spend most of their time. The best way to do this is by testing your home and installing a mitigation system if radon is higher than the Environmental Protection Agency recommended action level.

Parents concerned about radon in child care facilities should talk to facility administrators to learn how they plan to address any problems. And remember children often spend more than twice as much time at home than they do in child care. We urge all parents to test their homes for radon and mitigate if necessary. For additional information about radon in Colorado please visit our website at [www.coloradoradon.info](http://www.coloradoradon.info) or contact us at 303-692-3645.

