

# Radon Mitigation

## for child care providers

**Radon** is a radioactive gas that has no smell, color, or taste. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in the ground. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who don't smoke. All licensed family and group child care centers in Wisconsin are required to test for radon and **mitigate (reduce)** it if levels are found above 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

### Why is radon mitigation important?

When radon enters a building, it can contaminate the indoor air. If radon is breathed in over long periods of time, it can cause lung cancer. Radon-related lung cancer can be prevented if we reduce the amount of radon in buildings where people live, work, and attend school and child care. A **radon mitigation system** prevents radon from entering a building by moving it from the soil under the building to the outside air. The radon then mixes with air and is no longer harmful.



### What should I do if the radon levels in my center are too high (above 4 pCi/L)?

1. Within 12 months of testing, hire a certified radon mitigation contractor to install a radon mitigation system. A list of nationally certified radon mitigation professionals can be found at [www.lowradon.org](http://www.lowradon.org).
2. Notify the parents and guardians of children in care. You can use the included **notification letter template**.
3. After the mitigation system is installed, **test the building again**. Submit updated test results to your child care licensing specialist or Department of Children and Families (DCF) regional office within 12 months of your initial test.
4. Test and submit results **every two years** for family centers or **every five years** for group centers no matter what the result is.

### Is funding available to help centers pay for radon testing and mitigation?

Child care centers can use the DCF Child Care Counts Payment Program to help pay for radon testing and mitigation. Email [DCFDECECOVID19CCPayments@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFDECECOVID19CCPayments@wisconsin.gov) for questions about this program.