

December 15, 2023

Testing for Radon in Child Care Facilities

Radon is a naturally occurring colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that can accumulate in buildings and become harmful to human health. According to Health Canada, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. In Interior Health, we take radon exposure seriously.

Under Section 17 of the [Child Care Licensing Regulation](#), a child care facility operator must ensure that children do not have access to any object or substance that may be hazardous to the health or safety of a child. To that end, as of 2017, Interior Health Community Care Facility Licensing has made radon testing a requirement for all child care facility licensees and new applicants. Licensing Officers conduct facility inspections to ensure that the radon testing requirement has been completed.

If you have not completed the radon testing and need a radon detector, a long-term detector can be purchased from BC Lung Foundation from their website: <https://bclung.ca/radon> or by calling 1-800-665-LUNG. Alternatively, radon detectors may be purchased in most major building supply stores or through suppliers on the internet. When purchasing a detector, ensure that it is suitable for **a long-term 91-day test** and that the price includes laboratory analysis.

For more information on radon, go to: [Radon Gas | Environmental & Seasonal Health | IH \(interiorhealth.ca\)](#)

Sincerely,



Nicole Byrne
Manager, Community Care Facilities Licensing, Interior Health

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.