

Wisconsin Radon Program

Region V Meeting | July 8-10, 2024

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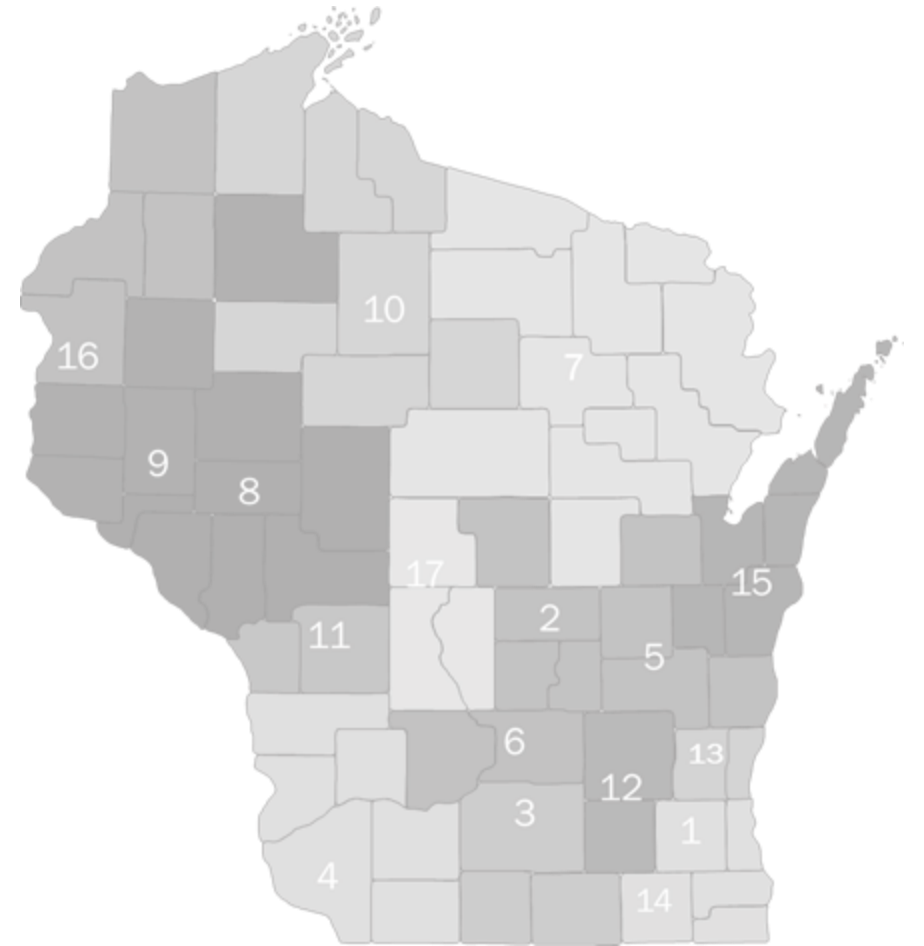


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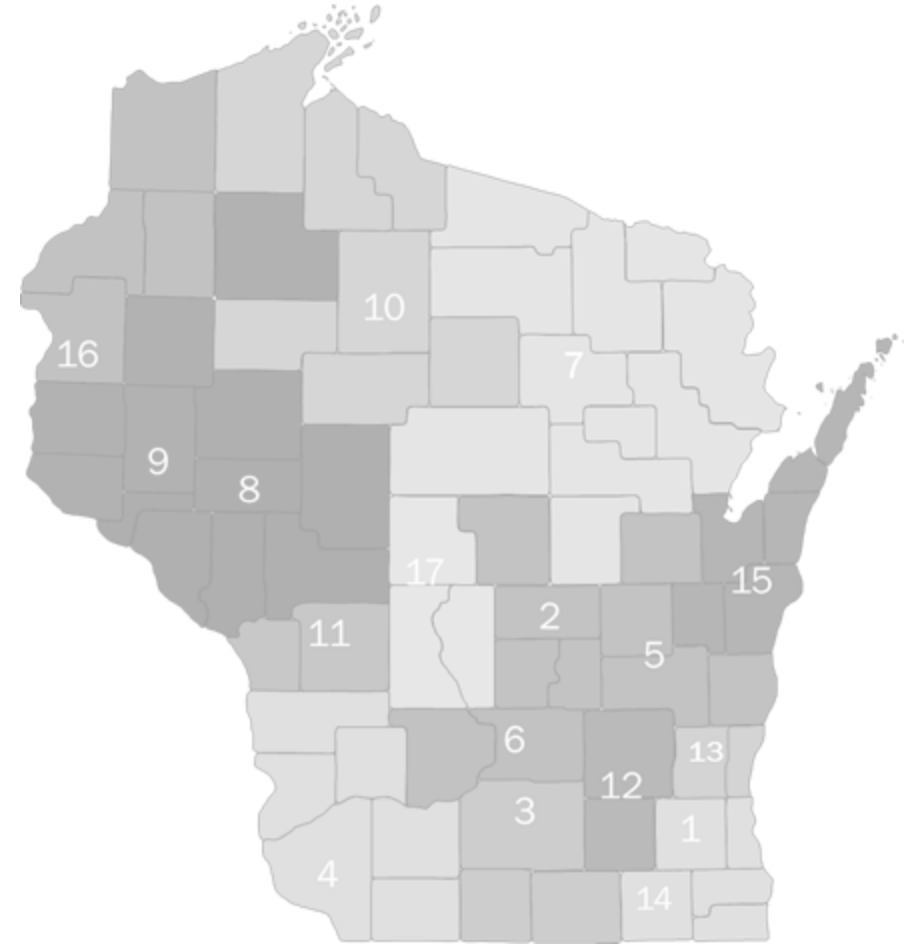
May, 2024: Started as new
**Indoor Air and Radon Program
Manager**



Wisconsin Radon Program Structure

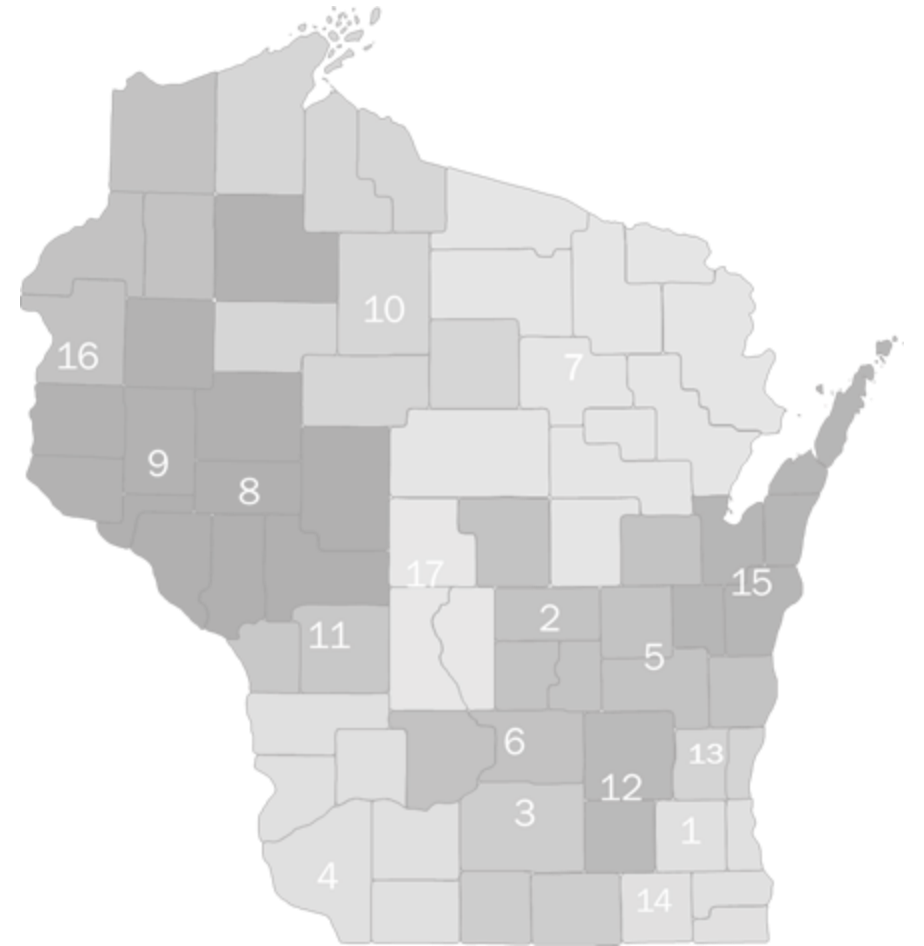


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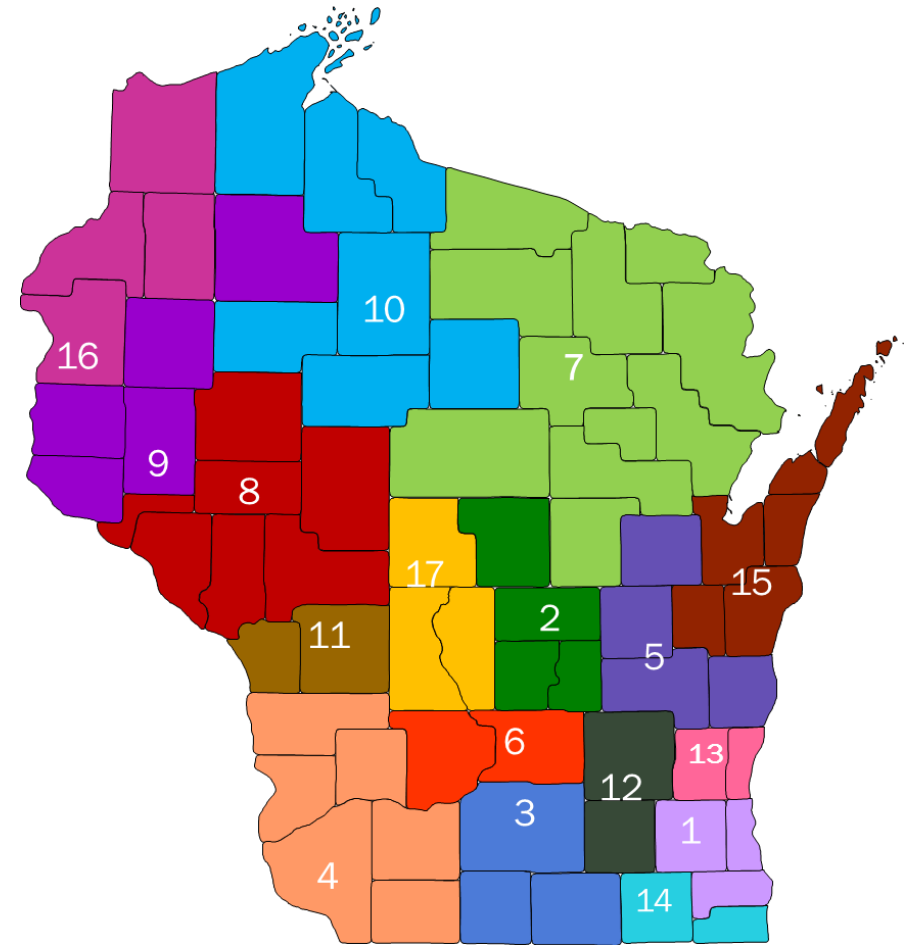
2 full-time DHS staff



Not a credentialing state

2 full-time DHS staff

17 Regional “Radon Information Centers”
(RICs)



In 2023:

RICs distributed 7,569 short-term test kits, of which 6,017 were returned—a 79.5% return rate.

Radon in Child Care Rule

Enacted March 1, 2023

Testing requirements for in-home and group centers

Mitigation required if radon tests at or above 4 pCi/L in the lowest level used by children at least 7 hours per week



Radon Testing

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. 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. **All licensed family and group child care centers in Wisconsin are required to test for radon.** Testing for radon in your center may look different depending on whether your center is a family or group care center. This frequently asked questions (FAQs) guide will help you know what to expect.

FAQ	Family Care Centers	Group Care Centers
Who should test my center for radon?	You can test your center yourself using a short-term radon test kit. You can purchase a test kit from a local hardware store or your regional Radon Information Center . While not required, you may also hire a certified radon measurement contractor .	The Department of Children and Families (DCF) requires one short-term radon test at a minimum. However, testing a non-residential building is complex. It is best practice to use a certified radon measurement contractor to understand the true risk of radon in your building.
What is the cost of testing for radon?	A short-term test kit costs \$10–\$30 per test. Check for discounted short-term radon test kits at your regional Radon Information Center . A certified radon measurement contractor will charge between \$125 and \$150 for a residential building. The child care center is responsible for these costs.	A certified radon measurement contractor will charge from \$500 to \$1500 to test a non-residential building. The cost of testing varies by size of the facility. The child care center is responsible for these costs. To find a certified radon measurement professional serving your county, visit www.lowradon.org .
How should I test for radon in my building?	Test for at least 48 hours in the lowest level of the center that is used by children in care for at least seven hours per week. The winter months are the best time to test. Keep windows and doors closed during testing. Refer to test kit instructions or www.lowradon.org for more information on how to test.	Test for at least 48 hours in the lowest level of the center that is used by children in care for at least seven hours per week. In commercial buildings, you'll need to test more places, including every classroom in contact with the ground. Using a certified radon measurement contractor is recommended.
When do I need to test for radon?	New providers must test for radon within six months of providing care for children. Within five days of receiving results, you must submit a copy to your licensing specialist or DCF regional office . Test your center every two years after the initial test date, no matter what the result is.	New providers must test for radon within six months of providing care for children. Within five days of receiving results, you must submit a copy to your licensing specialist or DCF regional office . Test your center every five years after the initial test date, no matter what the result is.

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](#).
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 for questions about this program.



Radon Notification

letter for parents and guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our center would like to update you on our efforts to reduce radon levels in our facility. **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. Lung cancer typically develops later in life, so preventing high levels of radon where people live, work, and attend school and child care is important.

Wisconsin law requires routine radon testing and mitigation (if needed) for licensed child care centers. We completed our test on _____ and the level of radon in our facility was _____ picocuries per liter (pCi/L). That's higher than the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended action level of 4 pCi/L. To comply with state regulations and prevent long-term exposure to radon for kids and staff in our facility, we will install a radon mitigation system. This system will remove radon from the ground below the facility before it has a chance to contaminate the air inside. The installation will be completed on _____.

Protecting the health and well-being of the children in our care is our top priority.

Our center is committed to keeping you informed as we take these radon safety measures. Please reach out anytime with questions.

Sincerely,



To learn more about radon, scan the QR code or visit www.lowradon.org.
For health-related questions or to test your own home for radon, contact your regional [Radon Information Center](#) or call 888-LOW-RADON (888-569-7236).



THANK
YOU!

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