



Lessons Learned from State Regulation of School and Daycare Testing

Presenters:

Michelle Thompson, Vermont Department of Health

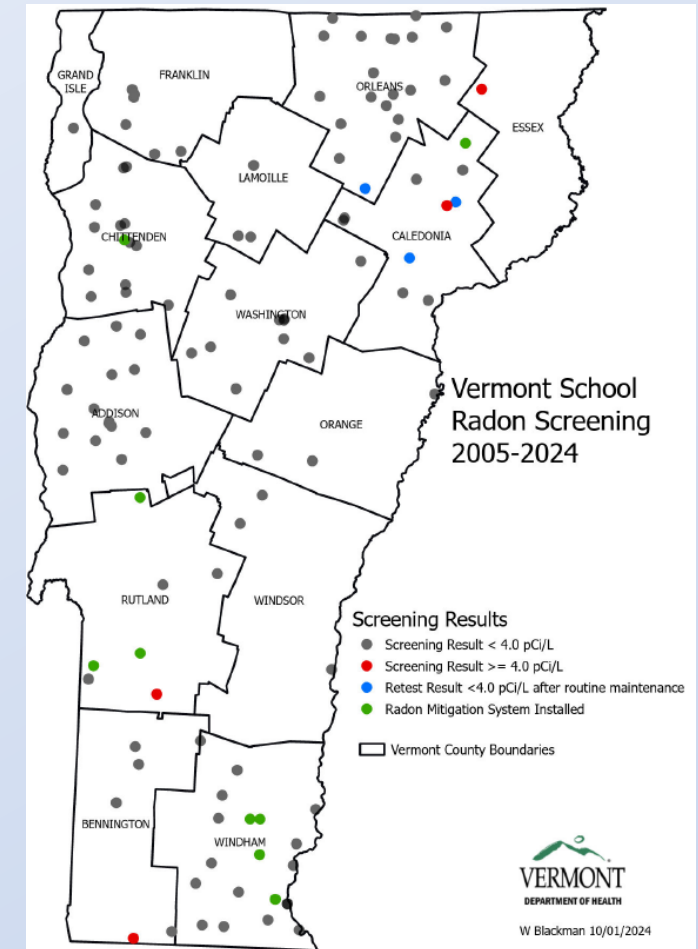
**Amanda Koch, Wisconsin Department of Health
Services**

October 28, 2025



Radon is a problem in Vermont schools.

- More than 145 schools tested to date.
- Almost 15% found at least one room with elevated radon.
- For most school children and staff, the second largest contributor to their radon exposure is likely to be their school.



Interest in school radon testing has increased over time with increased awareness and legislation.



All Vermont schools are now required to test for radon.

- In 2021, the Vermont legislature passed a law requiring all schools to test for radon (Section 12 of Act 72).
- In 2022, an extension was granted giving schools until June 30, 2025 to complete testing.
- Schools must follow ANSI/AARST standards to complete testing.



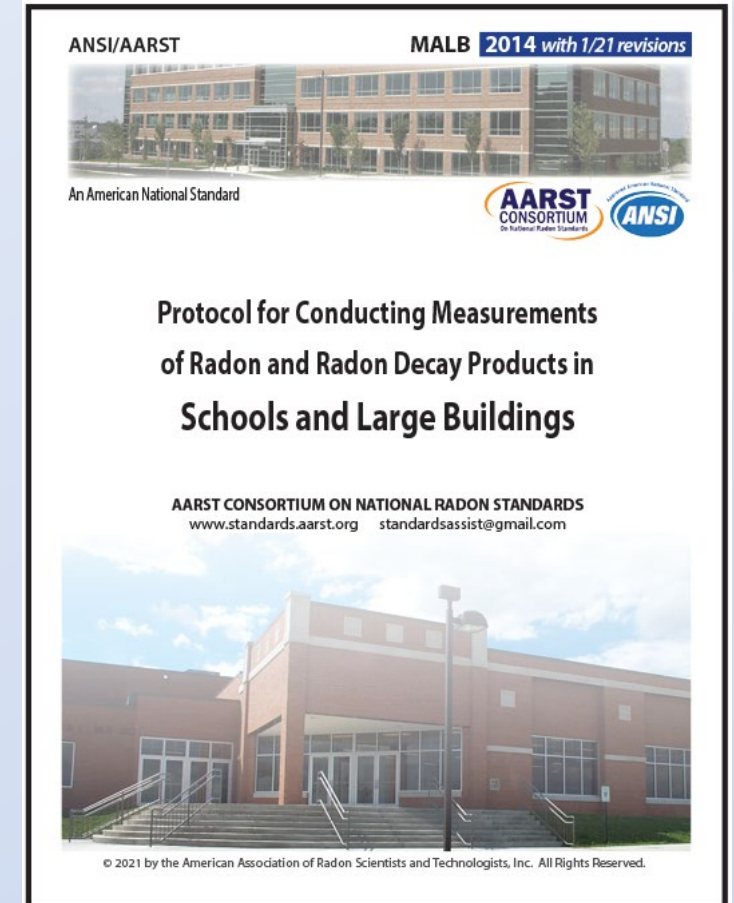
The law includes testing and notification requirements.

- Sec. 12. RADON TESTING; SCHOOL FACILITIES

- (a) On or before June 30, 2025, each public school and approved independent school, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11, **shall perform a radon measurement** in accordance with the ANSI/AARST protocol for conducting Radon and Radon Decay Products in Schools and Large Buildings (MALB2014) on any facility that has not had a test completed in five or more years;
- (b) Each public school and approved independent school **shall make available the results of the radon measurement** described in subsection (a) of this section to each employee and student at the school.

The school radon testing law has some benefits.

- Makes radon testing a requirement
- Requires some notification of results
- Requires testing in accordance with an ANSI/AARST standard (MALB2014) which includes:
 - Hiring a qualified measurement professional
 - Testing at a time that is representative of normal occupied building operating conditions



However, the law is missing some key requirements.

- Results are **not required** to be reported to the state
– we have no idea what compliance looks like.
- Results must be made available to staff and students, but notification of results to parents, caregivers and the broader school community is **not required**.
- Mitigation is **not required** when elevated radon levels are found.
- Future testing is **not required**.



And there are other ways the law could be improved.

- Reference the **most current** ANSI/AARST standard for testing schools.
- **Remove the exemption** for schools that had tested within the last five years.
- Grant authority to a state agency to **allow oversight and provide schools with testing and mitigation support**. Right now, the responsibility falls solely on the schools.



From 2021 through 2025, some common issues and questions around school radon testing were found.

- Some schools have **not tested** at all.
- Some schools **missed the testing deadline**, but plan to test during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Some schools had **only one room tested**.
- Some schools were **tested in June**, rather than during the heating season.
- Many schools reached out to the Vermont Radon program to **request free test kits or funding** for testing.



School testing in VT is happening but could be improved to further protect public health and reduce radon risk.

1

- Radon is a problem in Vermont schools.

2

- Increased awareness and a school testing law has led to increased radon testing in schools.

3

- The current law is missing key best practices and could be improved to better facilitate radon risk reduction.

Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

Email: radon@vermont.gov

Web: HealthVermont.gov/radon-schools

Social: @HealthVermont



Regulation of Child Care Center Testing and Mitigation in Wisconsin

Presented by Amanda Koch, MPH
Wisconsin Radon Program
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
October 28, 2025



Wisconsin's radon regulatory landscape

Understanding the “why”

Radon regulations in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has few radon regulations.

Radon regulations in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has few radon regulations.

Not required:

Credentialing of professional radon service providers.

Testing or mitigation of schools.

Renter protections specific to radon.

Testing during real estate transactions.

Radon-resistant new construction.

Radon regulations in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has few radon regulations.

Required:

A radon program administered by the DHS (Wis. Stat. § [254.34\(1\)\(h\)](#)).

Seller disclosure of known high radon levels during real estate transactions (Wis. Stat. §§ [709.001](#) et seq.).

Testing and mitigation of licensed child care centers (Wis. Stat. § [48.67](#); Wis. Admin. Code Ch. DCF [250.06\(2\)\(n\)](#) & [251.06\(2\)\(p\)](#)).

Radon regulations in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has few radon regulations.

Required:

A radon program administered by the DHS (Wis. Stat. § [254.34\(1\)\(h\)](#)).

Seller disclosure of known high radon levels during real estate transactions (Wis. Stat. §§ 709.001 et seq.).

Testing and mitigation of licensed child care centers (Wis. Stat. § [48.67](#); Wis. Admin. Code Ch. DCF [250.06\(2\)\(n\)](#) & [251.06\(2\)\(p\)](#)).



NEW!
3/1/23

...so, why child care?



Because **everyone** can agree on protecting kids!

...and because administrative rule revisions are (generally) easier to pass.

A dive into the code

A closer look at Wis. Admin Code Ch. DCF 250 & 251

But first... Defining child care types

There are three types of licensed child care centers in Wisconsin.

- Family centers (residential)

- Group centers (non-residential)

- Day camps (seasonal, outdoors)


But first... Defining child care types

There are three types of licensed child care centers in Wisconsin.

Family centers (residential)

Group centers (non-residential)

Day camps (seasonal, outdoors)



Radon testing & mitigation required

The diagram consists of a blue rectangular box on the right containing the text 'Radon testing & mitigation required'. Two blue arrows originate from the left side of this box. The top arrow points to the text 'Family centers (residential)' and the bottom arrow points to the text 'Group centers (non-residential)'. The text 'Day camps (seasonal, outdoors)' is listed below the other two but has no arrow pointing to it.

Family and Group Center Requirements

Family and Group Center Requirements

- ✓ Test for radon within 6 months prior to providing care for children.

Family and Group Center Requirements

- ✓ Test for radon within 6 months prior to providing care for children.
- ✓ Test in the lowest level used by children at least 7 hours per week.

Family and Group Center Requirements

- ✓ Test for radon within 6 months prior to providing care for children.
- ✓ Test in the lowest level used by children at least 7 hours per week.
- ✓ Notify parents/guardians if radon test results exceed 4 pCi/L.

Family and Group Center Requirements

- ✓ Test for radon within 6 months prior to providing care for children.
- ✓ Test in the lowest level used by children at least 7 hours per week.
- ✓ Notify parents/guardians if radon test results exceed 4 pCi/L.
- ✓ Submit test results to the Department within 3 days of receiving results.

Family and Group Center Requirements

- ✓ Test for radon within 6 months prior to providing care for children.
- ✓ Test in the lowest level used by children at least 7 hours per week.
- ✓ Notify parents/guardians if radon test results exceed 4 pCi/L.
- ✓ Submit test results to the Department within 3 days of receiving results.
- ✓ Mitigate within 1 year of receipt of elevated result.

Family and Group Center Requirements

- ✓ Test for radon within 6 months prior to providing care for children.
- ✓ Test in the lowest level used by children at least 7 hours per week.
- ✓ Notify parents/guardians if radon test results exceed 4 pCi/L.
- ✓ Submit test results to the Department within 3 days of receiving results.
- ✓ Mitigate within 1 year of receipt of elevated result.
- ✓ Test again every two years for family centers or every 5 years for group centers.

Where the rule falls short

Where the rule falls short

Using a certified contractor or following ANSI/AARST standards for testing and/or mitigation is **not** required.

Where the rule falls short

Using a certified contractor or following ANSI/AARST standards for testing and/or mitigation is **not** required.

Only **one** radon test is required to be deployed, regardless of building size and number of ground contact rooms.

Additional challenges

Additional challenges

The DCF's internal database was not prepared to track radon testing and mitigation information.

Additional challenges

The DCF's internal database was not prepared to track radon testing and mitigation information.



DHS Radon Program staff departures delayed the publication of resources that would have been useful during rollout.

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.

Encourage hiring a certified measurement contractor for non-residential buildings.

| 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 as 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. |



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
P-XXXXXX | 06/2024



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

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.



Encourage hiring a certified professional for mitigation.



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.

Refer to available funding source.

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).



Encourage parents to
test their own homes.

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Radon: Home |
| Radon & Your Health |
| Testing for Radon |
| Radon Mitigation |
| Find a Contractor |
| Radon in Schools |
| Radon in Child Care |
| Radon Professional Certification |
| Talk to a Radon Expert |

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) [Wis. Admin. Code § DCF 250.06\(2\)\(n\)1.a](#) requires Licensed Family Care Centers and Licensed Group Child Care Centers to test for radon. If radon levels exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Action Level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), providers are required to install a radon mitigation system to lower radon levels in their center. Licensed providers submit radon test results to [DCF](#). Note that while this rule applies to licensed (not certified) child care providers only, the Department of Health Services (DHS) strongly recommends that certified family centers also test for radon and mitigate high levels. Administrative Code [DCF 250](#) (Family Child Care' [DCF 251](#) (Group Child Care) require each licensed provider to:

☢ Step 1: Test for radon

Test for radon within six months before providing care for children.

Test in the lowest level of the building used for at least seven hours per week by children in care. Test for at least 48 hours with the building's windows closed.

You can get a test kit at a reduced cost by contacting your regional [Radon Information Center](#).



Click flyer for the English version. Also see the [Radon Testing flyer for Child Care Providers in Spanish \(PDF\)](#) and the [Radon Testing flyer for Child Care Providers in Hmong \(PDF\)](#).

Why is radon testing in child care centers important?

Protecting children from exposure to high levels of radon can help reduce their long-term risk for developing lung cancer.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see or smell. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium and radium in the ground. Radon can enter through a home or building's foundation and build up to high levels in the indoor air. Over time, breathing in high levels of radon can cause lung cancer. It is important to test for

✉ Step 2: Send results to DCF

Send a copy of the radon test results to your [DCF regional office](#) within five days after receipt.

If results exceed 4 pCi/L, you must notify the parents of children in care.

We offer a [template notification letter P-03638b \(PDF\)](#) that child care providers are free to use and personalize for their center.

Routine retesting is required.



Click flyer for the English version. Also see the [Radon Notification letter for Parents and Guardians in Spanish \(PDF\)](#) and the [Radon Notification Letter for Parents and Guardians in Hmong \(PDF\)](#).

🔧 Step 3: Mitigate if radon test results exceed 4 pCi/L

Hire a [certified radon professional](#) to install a [radon mitigation system](#) if test results exceed 4 pCi/L.

After the mitigation system is installed, retest and send results to DCF. Mitigation system installation and retest must be conducted within 12 months of the first radon test with a result over 4 pCi/L.



Click flyer for the English version. Also see the [Radon Mitigation for Child Care Providers in Spanish \(PDF\)](#) and the [Radon Mitigation for Child Care Providers in Hmong \(PDF\)](#).



<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/child-care.htm>



Successes

A focus on the “wins”

Successes

Successes

1. Organized trainings helped providers and DCF licensing specialists understand the new rules during rollout.

Successes

1. Organized trainings helped providers and DCF licensing specialists understand the new rules during rollout.
2. We have impact data!

"Since the DCF rule went into effect, 41 child care centers across Wisconsin have mitigated high radon, protecting over 820 children enrolled in care from exposure to high radon levels. Preventing exposure to high radon in places where kids spend a lot of time is a significant way to reduce their overall exposure to radon."

- Paula Tran, Wisconsin State Health Officer
National Radon Action Month Press Release, 1/6/2025

Successes

1. Organized trainings helped providers and DCF licensing specialists understand the new rules during rollout.
2. We have impact data!
3. Child care providers who utilized the DCF's [Child Care Counts Payment Program](#) report it was a huge support in financing their radon mitigation system installations.

Lessons learned

Key takeaways for our state and Tribal radon partners

Lessons learned

1. Collaboration is key.

A state's child care regulatory agency and its radon experts should work closely together during regulation planning and implementation.

Lessons learned

1. **Collaboration is key.**

A state's child care regulatory agency and its radon experts should work closely together during regulation planning and implementation.

2. **Funding assistance for testing and/or mitigation reduces burden.**

Providing access to free or reduced-cost test kits, and mitigation assistance, helps already-strapped providers reduce their financial burden.

Lessons learned

1. Collaboration is key.

A state's child care regulatory agency and its radon experts should work closely together during regulation planning and implementation.

2. Funding assistance for testing and/or mitigation reduces burden.

Providing access to free or reduced-cost test kits, and mitigation assistance, helps already-strapped providers reduce their financial burden.

3. Data matter.

A child care regulatory agency should plan for the collection, maintenance, and analysis of radon testing and/or mitigation data.

In summary...

There are few state laws protecting Wisconsinites from radon.

The DCF rule was a step forward.

We hope this opens the door for more radon protections.



Contact us!

DHSradon@dhs.wisconsin.gov

608-267-7199



**TEST.
FIX.
SAVE A LIFE.**

**1-888-LOW-RADON (1-888-569-7236)
www.lowradon.org**