

Radon Testing Update

To: Staff, Students and Families

Date: April 9, 2019

From: Melanie Friend, Head Teacher

Re: Radon Testing Update – Initial Testing Completed

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff are top priorities at Ashwood Elementary.

This memo is to update you on the initial radon testing performed in Ashwood Elementary. Under a 2015 Oregon law (ORS 332.166-167), Oregon schools must be tested for elevated radon on or before January 1, 2021.

Ashwood School District began testing for elevated radon levels in December 14, 2018; Box R Water Analysis was hired to help conduct monitoring procedures.

Radon testing devices were placed in 4 rooms frequently occupied. Of those rooms, two tested above the EPA recommended action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Ashwood School District's response to elevated radon results has been prompt and comprehensive. The rooms that tested at or above 4.0 pCi/L are subject to longer confirmation testing and temporary mitigation systems. All testing results can be found at www.ashwood.k12.or.us/announcements.

As a temporary mitigation, the classroom door, nearest the elevated test, will be kept propped open for up to 2 hours per school day to allow for added ventilation and the HVAC fan will run continuously at least during school hours.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. It is the number-one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Elevated radon can be found across the country and in all different types of buildings, including homes and schools.

Breathing air with radon gas does not cause any immediate health effects, and not everyone exposed to elevated levels will develop lung cancer. Lung cancer usually occurs many years after exposure. Individuals who are exposed to high radon levels over long periods of time are the most at risk. Because students and staff of school buildings spend much of their time at home, the home may be their most significant source of radon exposure. The EPA recommends that **all** homes and schools be tested for radon.

Please visit Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) radon website to learn more: www.healthoregon.org/radon. Information on how to test your home is also found on OHA's webpage. You can contact OHA's Radon Awareness Program at 971-673-0440 or radon.program@state.or.us.

If you have any questions or concerns about radon testing at Ashwood School District, please feel free to contact Nancy Friend at nfriend@ashwood.k12.or.us.

Thank you,

Melanie Friend, Head Teacher

Ashwood Elementary