

Ashwood School District Radon Testing Update

To: Staff, Students and Families Date: January 28, 2020

From: Melanie Friend, Head Teacher

Re: Radon Testing Update – Follow-Up Testing Completed

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

This memo is to update you on the second round of radon testing performed in Ashwood School District. 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 retesting for elevated radon levels in September 2019 and concluded in December 2019.

Radon testing devices were placed in 2 frequently occupied classrooms. Of those rooms, 2 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. A mitigation company has been contacted and all testing results can be found at www.ashwood.k12.or.us.

A company from the Willamette Valley specializing in Radon Mitigation is being scheduled to assist the district in ensuring that our facilities are safe for our students, staff and visitors.

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 Elementary School, please feel free to contact Melanie Friend, Head Teacher at 541-489-3297 or mfriender@ashwood.k12.or.us.

Thank you,