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WISCONSIN IAQ NEWS

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Indoor Air Quality and Radon Program

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QUICK LINKS:

- [Radon measurement and mitigation courses](#)
- [The Air That We Breathe: Neutral and Volatile PFAS in Indoor Air](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Rural Development: Wisconsin Program Guide](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [Radon 101 Webinar](#), December 2, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

WEBINARS ON DEMAND:

- [IAQ Tools for Schools: On Demand Training Webinars](#)
- [Controlling Mold and Moisture Toolkit Webinar](#)

POLICY

Proposed rule on radon testing in licensed child care settings

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families is proposing a rule change for licensed family and group child care settings, which would require providers to test and mitigate for radon. If passed, the rule change would go into effect in January 2023. The language will be available for public comment in late 2021 and the legislative hearing will likely take place in early 2022.

There are several states with similar child care policies related to testing and mitigating for radon. The Environmental Law Institute recently released a policy brief describing these state policies and highlighting considerations for future policy development. Learn more in "[Radon in Child Care: Review of State Policies](#)".



EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Particulate Monitoring, Part 2

In [Issue 1 of Wisconsin IAQ News](#), we discussed the equipment available for monitoring particulate matter (PM) through the equipment loan program co-administered by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH). In this installment, we are highlighting yet another particulate monitoring instrument available through this program: the TSI P-Trak.



Image source: [TSI](#)

The P-Trak is different from the other two PM monitors discussed previously. This instrument monitors specifically for ultrafine particulate, ranging in size from 0.01 to 0.1 micrometers in diameter. Particles of this size reach the deepest regions of the lungs and are present in photocopier and printer toner, as well as combustion-related emissions such as cigarette smoke, gas stove and appliance exhaust, and diesel exhaust. This instrument can be very helpful as a particulate source tracking instrument for indoor air quality site investigations. It can be used to track the sources of combustion emissions, identify the point(s) of ultrafine particulate entry into a dwelling, and evaluate the effectiveness of building filtration systems by comparing outdoor counts divided by indoor counts to approximate building filtration efficiency.

DHS/WSLH Equipment Loan Program staff are available to assist with instrument training and data interpretation for environmental site assessment work. Reach out to [DHS Environmental Health](#) to learn more about instruments available through the DHS/WSLH Equipment Loan Program.



HEALTH EQUITY

Inclusive Communication

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a new resource: "[Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)". This guide is intended to assist professionals in communicating with their audience in a way that is accurate, respectful, and inclusive. Michelle Bonds, the CDC's director of the Division of Public Affairs, assembled and led a team of subject matter experts across the CDC to create this resource. She was recently featured on [an episode](#) of the CDC's "Gateway to Health Communication" podcast and described the purpose of this work. Using the "Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication" resource can help professionals ensure their communication products and strategies adapt to the specific cultural, linguistic, environmental, and historical situation of each population or audience.

RESOURCES



January is National Radon Action Month

Check out the following resources for promoting National Radon Action Month during January.

- [Wisconsin Radon Action Month Toolkit](#) This toolkit includes Wisconsin-specific key messages, statistics and talking points. It also includes samples of social media posts, a radon test kit coupon, and a press release.
- [Reducing the Risk From Radon: Information and Interventions](#) This guide provides health care providers with information on reducing radon exposure among their patients. It may be a helpful resource when reaching out to health systems in your community. Available in English and Spanish.
- [CDC Radon Awareness Week: January 24-28, 2022](#) During Radon Awareness Week, the CDC will focus on a different key message each day. Consider using their images on your social media accounts, or make a plan to retweet and repost the CDC messages each day.
- [CDC Radon Toolkit](#) Intended for public health professionals, this toolkit includes customizable radon materials ready for print or web, including a press release, social media content, infographics, and fact sheets.
- [EPA National Radon Action Month Information](#) The EPA has curated a variety of resources, sample messaging, and information about the National Radon Poster Contest for National Radon Action Month.
- [EPA Radon Public Service Announcements](#) These PSAs are available in audio for radio ads, in video for television or movie theater ads, or in print.



CARBON MONOXIDE

Preventing CO Poisonings in Ice Arenas

Carbon monoxide poisonings are a danger year-round, but the risk tends to increase during the winter months when temperatures drop and heating systems function more often. If your community has an ice arena, this is particularly important to keep in mind. Indoor air quality problems can occur in ice arenas when equipment and air handling systems are not properly working. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a variety of resources on [ice arena air quality](#) for ice rink owners, coaches, and parents. These include signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, fact sheets for coaches, webinars, and videos.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Question: How does a person become certified in radon measurement or mitigation and placed on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) contractors list?

Answer: Wisconsin does not have laws requiring a radon contractor to become licensed or certified. The State Indoor Radon Grant program is funded by the U.S. EPA. The conditions of the grant require that states list on their website those contractors who have obtained certification from either the [National Radon Safety Board](#) (NRSB) or [National Radon Proficiency Program](#) (NRPP). To be recognized as certified an individual must take a qualifying course, pass the exam, and apply for certification through one of those agencies. Wisconsin Radon Information Centers and DHS recommend that residents use a certified contractor to perform radon measurement work during a real estate transaction, and always use a certified mitigation contractor to install a system. Contractors that are licensed in other states via their state programs can be listed on the DHS website under “out of state licensed contractors working in Wisconsin.” They must send validation of their licensure and the expiration date to WI DHS and maintain that license (or obtain certification through NRPP or NRSB) in order to be listed on the DHS website. Certified contractors can reach out to [DHS Environmental Health](#) to inquire about being listed among other contractors on the [DHS website](#).

SUCCESS STORY

Local Radon Information Centers (RICs) host online learning opportunities

The pandemic has changed how we reach various audiences about radon risk. In the past year, two local health departments in Wisconsin created unique online learning formats for various audiences in their communities. The La Crosse County Health Department partnered with a local radon mitigation contractor and hosted a virtual radon presentation for the general public. About 68 people attended and were offered a free radon test kit prior to the event. Attendees were able to ask questions of experts and learn more about best practices.

The Wood County Health Department hosted a webinar for area realtors to become "Radon Aware." After attending a Zoom presentation on radon, participants agreed to provide clients with up-to-date radon information and refer clients to certified radon professionals via the state radon website. They were given coffee tumblers that said "Radon Aware Real Estate Professional" to use at their desk or in their work as talking points for clients.



[Email us](#) your success stories to be featured in a future edition of Wisconsin IAQ News!