



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

May 16, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Required Reporting of Radon Test Results by School Divisions

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind school divisions of the requirement for radon testing and reporting pursuant to Section 22.1-138, *Code of Virginia* (Minimum Standards for Public School Buildings). The applicable provision in Section 22.1-138 states:

B. By July 1, 1994, every school building in operation in the Commonwealth shall be tested for radon pursuant to procedures established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for radon measurements in schools.

School buildings and additions opened for operation after July 1, 1994, shall be tested for radon pursuant to such EPA procedures and regulations prescribed by the Board of Education pursuant to subsection A of this section. Each school shall maintain files of its radon test results and make such files available for review. The division superintendent shall report radon test results to the Department of Health.

In addition, the Virginia Department of Health recommends the following radon testing guidelines and best practices:

- All public school buildings and additions opened for operation after July 1, 1994, shall be tested for radon. New buildings/additions should be tested within 18 months of occupancy.
- Public school buildings should be tested for radon pursuant to EPA-402-R-92-014, "Radon Measurement in Schools" (as revised). School personnel trained to follow the testing protocol defined in EPA 402-R-92-014 may perform the tests, or schools may hire currently certified National Radon Safety Board or National Radon Proficiency Program testers.
- Radon testing should be conducted in all classrooms contacting the ground.
- Testing should occur during days when school is in session and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is operating normally.
- Testing should be conducted between November 1 and March 31.
- Tests indicating results equal to or greater than 4.0 pCi/L should be retested and if elevated levels are confirmed, then mitigation actions should be taken.

For additional testing guidance for schools, please contact Mr. Ryan Paris, Radon Safety Specialist and Radon Coordinator, at ryan.paris@vdh.virginia.gov, (800) 468-0138, or (804) 864-8161.

While we have continued to remind divisions of the need to test new buildings for radon in school construction correspondence, this memorandum serves as a reminder of the requirement to report these test results to the

Department of Health and to maintain all radon testing records. As stated in the *Code*, copies of test results are to be reported to:

Virginia Department of Health
Division of Radiological Health
109 Governor Street, Room 730
Richmond, VA 23219

If you need additional information regarding this memorandum, please contact Hunter Barnes at Hunter.Barnes@doe.virginia.gov, Vijay Ramnarain at Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov, or call (804) 225-2035.

SRS/HB/aam