

February 26, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Teachers,

The British Columbia Lung Association is working in partnership with School District 71 to screen for radon gas in all school infrastructures within the district. This initiative is in alignment with our mission to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. It forms from the breakdown of uranium in the soil and enters all buildings including home and schools. This gas can accumulate to high levels and become a health hazard. Radon is the first leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

Considering the significance of this risk and the extended hours of potential exposure for students and staff during an average school day, BC Lung Association is working with the Health and Safety Manager of School District 71 to screen the schools for radon gas. The test kits were deployed on the week of February 11th and the testing period will take 91 days. This process has no impact on school activities and test kits pose no risk to students or staff.

Following the testing period, the test kits will be collected and sent to the lab for analysis. The sites with high levels of radon above the Health Canada guidelines (200 Bq/m³) will be identified for mitigation. The goal of this project is to ensure students and staff are not being exposed to high radon levels during school hours.

BC Lung Association also encourages parents and homeowners to test their home for continued care and to ensure radon levels at home are below the hazardous levels.

If you have any questions or concern you may contact Roy Russel, Health and Safety Manager of SD. 71 or Yalda Yavari who is coordinating this project at the BC Lung Association.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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