**What is Radon?**

- Radon-222 is a radioactive gas released during the natural decay of thorium and uranium, which are common, naturally occurring elements found in varying amounts in rock and soil. Odorless, invisible, and tasteless, radon cannot be detected with the human senses.¹

- Radon-222 decays into radioactive elements, two of which — polonium-218 and polonium-214— emit alpha particles, which damage lung tissue. These alpha-emitting radon decay products are known to cause lung cancer in humans.¹

**Why Act?**

- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.¹

- If exposed to 4 pCi/L of radon over a lifetime, 7 per 1,000 of those who never smoked would develop lung cancer versus 62 per 1,000 smokers.²

- 1 in 5 homes in Kentucky have an indoor radon level equal to or greater than 4 pCi/L, which is designated as the “action level” by the EPA.²

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Kentucky is classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Zone 1 state. The risk for radon exposure is significantly higher in Zone 1 states.

Exposure to radon is associated with an estimated 15,400 to 21,800 lung cancer cases in the United States each year.

It is estimated that 3-14% of U.S. lung cancer cases are linked to radon.

The World Health Organization says that there is sufficient evidence that radon is a cause of lung cancer in the general population.

The Surgeon General issued a public health advisory in 2005 warning that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

The President’s Cancer Panel Report (2009-2010) states that the radioactive decay produced by radon can damage DNA which can lead to lung cancer.