



South Umpqua School District
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October 16, 2018

To the Parents/Guardians of the students of the South Umpqua School District:

An important step is being taken to ensure that the buildings of the South Umpqua School District are healthy and safe.

This letter is to notify you that initial testing for elevated radon in our buildings will be conducted starting October 22nd, with the high school being the first building tested. Under a 2015 Oregon law (ORS 332.166-167), Oregon schools must be initially tested for elevated radon on or before January 1, 2021.

The radioactive gas, radon, is the number-one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Elevated radon is found naturally in soil across the country and under all types of structures (including homes).

To test for elevated radon in our buildings, small devices will be placed in each of the occupied rooms that are in contact with the ground starting October 22nd at the high school. Test results will be available at the district office upon completion of the project, which will be mid-March 2019.

While occupants may be exposed to elevated levels of radon in schools, current data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests radon exposure at home is the number-one source of radon exposure for most people. The EPA and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recommend that **ALL** homes, regardless of location and type, be tested.

Please see OHA's Frequently Asked Questions about radon, including information on the health effects, at www.healthoregon.org/radon. Information on how homes can be tested easily and inexpensively is also found at this website. You can request printed information on radon by contacting OHS's Radon Awareness Program at 971-673-0440 or radon.program@state.or.us.

If you have further questions or concerns regarding radon testing at any of our buildings, please feel free to contact Claire Johnson at 541-863-3115 or claire.johnson@susd.k12.or.us.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tim Porter, Superintendent