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## **REDUCING RADON IN SCHOOLS: *A TEAM APPROACH***

### **OVERVIEW**

This document will assist you in determining the best way to reduce elevated radon levels found in a school. It is designed to guide you through the process of confirming a radon problem, selecting the best mitigation strategy, and directing the efforts of a multidisciplinary team assembled to address elevated radon levels in a way that will contribute to the improvement of the overall indoor air quality of the school.

Chapters 1 and 2 review what radon is, why it is a concern, and the mechanisms by which it enters and accumulates in a building. Chapter 3 and 4 outline the Initial Investigation, in which you will examine the condition of your school's ventilation system and determine whether restoring the ventilation system to its intended operating condition could reduce radon levels to below EPA's action level of 4 pCi/L. This determination is based on:

1. the school's pre-mitigation radon levels, and
2. a physical inspection of the ventilation system.

If significant improvements are made to the ventilation system, Chapter 5 discusses the option of retesting to determine whether this action alone has solved the problem.

Chapter 6 discusses the Detailed Investigation that may be necessary if: 1) pre-mitigation levels are above 10 pCi/L, or 2) improving the ventilation system did not sufficiently reduce radon levels. Chapter 7 describes active subslab depressurization systems, which have proven effective at reducing extremely elevated radon levels in both residences and schools. Chapters 8 and 9 outline the process of making post-mitigation measurements and discuss steps to ensure the long-term effectiveness of your mitigation strategy. Chapter 10 provides information regarding building codes and worker protection. This document also offers two case studies based on real-life experiences of EPA's research team and cost information for six research sites.

Each chapter of the guide builds upon the previous chapter and makes use of photographs, floor plans, and graphs to illustrate the steps involved in designing the proper mitigation strategy for a school. The guide is not meant to be a "how-to" manual on radon mitigation, but rather a resource for managing a team made up of radon mitigation contractors, HVAC engineers, school personnel, and parent representatives. EPA believes such a team is helpful to achieve successful mitigation.

By following this guide, you will not only have reduced your school's radon levels, but you will also have a good understanding of the steps necessary to ensure the integrity of your mitigation strategy.

## HOW TO ORDER

This publication can be ordered through the [IAQ INFO Clearinghouse](#).

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