

January 5, 2022



Testimony of the American Lung Association
In Favor of DCF Rule 250 and 251 Radon Testing Provisions
Department of Children and Families
Sent to dcfpublichearing@wisconsin.gov

Everyone is entitled to a safe and healthy indoor environment, especially children. As the nation's oldest voluntary health organization dedicated to saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, we thank you for introducing this measure to require radon testing in childcare facilities.

Children's growing lungs are highly vulnerable to harm from unhealthy air. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, responsible for 21,000 deaths annually. Exposure to radon causes no immediate symptoms, but the long-term threat of lung cancer is significant to everyone. We must protect children and school staff from exposure to radon.

Radon is emitted from the ground and enters a building through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. Because radon comes from rock and soil, it can be found anywhere. However, when radon gets trapped indoors, such as in childcare facilities, it can reach dangerous concentrations.

The proposed rule will protect Wisconsin's children, their caregivers and other facility staff from exposure to radon while at childcare facilities. It will ensure facilities are tested for radon and, if tests show dangerous levels of radon are present, successful mitigation steps will be applied in a timely manner. Ideally, all persons from firms providing testing or mitigation services should be properly certified to do so and those services should be performed in accordance with nationally recognized standards.

As you know, this is particularly critical for Wisconsin, where according to the American Lung Association's [2021 State of Lung Cancer report](#), 46% of radon tests results were at or above the action level recommended by EPA. Wisconsin ranks 46th among all states, with some of the worst radon results in the country.

In conclusion, the American Lung Association supports Department of Children and Families' proposed rule to improve indoor air quality through the use of radon testing and mitigation practices to protect the health of children and workers in childcare facilities.