Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) invites area residents to attend radon presentations at numerous senior centers during Radon Action Month.

SWNPHD is working with the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) on a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure. SWNPHD urges area residents to take action by testing their homes for radon during January.

“Radon was not in my vocabulary before I started working at SWNPHD,” explains Denise Ringenberg, Certified Radon Measurement Specialist. “Through radon education, hands-on testing, and the support of local and state radon experts, I am determined to increase radon testing in southwest Nebraska.”

Discount coupons for radon tests will be distributed at the presentations and be available at the SWNPHD office located at 404 West 10th St. in McCook. A free radon presentation will be held Jan. 29 at 12 noon at the Imperial Community Center.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. It is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that enters homes and buildings through the soil and cannot be detected unless it is tested. In Nebraska, one out of every two homes tested has a high radon level (above 4.0 pCi/L).

For more information on radon, testing, mitigation and radon-resistant new construction, contact Myra Stoney or Denise Ringenberg at edu cate@swhealth.ne.gov, review our web site at www.swhealth.ne.gov or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is also on Facebook and Twitter. The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.