

August 31, 2018

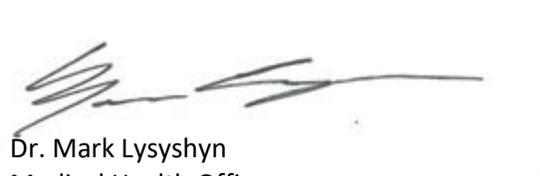
Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, Vancouver Coastal Health, in collaboration with the Sea to Sky School District screened all district schools for radon this past winter. This school screening initiative was undertaken to confirm that radon concentrations are low in District schools.

Screening is now complete, and test results for most classrooms are below the Canadian guideline of 200 Bq/m³ and the World Health Organization suggested action level of 100 Bq/m³. The radon screening results can be found below. In one school, screening identified concentrations in some classrooms above the Canadian guideline. In a second school, concentrations in some classrooms exceeded the World Health Organization suggested action level, but were below the Canadian guideline. For these two schools, additional testing is required to determine if radon concentrations are above guideline levels when the building is in use by the school community. The school district is engaging certified professionals to conduct this additional testing over the next few months, and the results will be shared with parents as soon as they are available. Because a child's classroom exposure represents a small portion of their overall exposure over the year, and the radon concentrations found are not high enough to warrant urgent action, the continued use of these classrooms while further testing and mitigation is being planned is not a health concern.

Vancouver Coastal Health continues to encourage all community members to test their homes for radon next winter. The risk of health impacts due to radon exposure is greatest from exposures in buildings where people spend the majority of their time and following exposure over many years. Over a calendar year, children spend approximately 15% of their time in their school, and 60-75% of their time in their home environment. Vancouver Coastal Health and the Sea to Sky School District are taking action in the school environment, and we encourage community members to test their own homes where more indoor time is spent.

Please refer to the fact sheet attached for more information on this screening initiative and how you can test your home for radon. If you have questions or concerns contact Dan Glover, Senior Environmental Health Officer at Vancouver Coastal Health at 604.815.6846 or Dan.Glover@vch.ca, or Mohammed Azim, Secretary-Treasurer for the Sea to Sky School District at 604.892.5228.



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