

Radon in Schools

Getting Started – What do I need to know?



Managing Radon in your Schools: Utilizing the Key Drivers

- **Communicate** – Risk communication about potential radon problems
- **Organize** – Gain administrative and partnership support
- **Assess** – Determine the need to test for radon in schools
- **Plan** – How/who will be performing radon testing in the schools
- **Act** – perform radon testing **and** mitigate areas with high levels
- **Evaluate** – Assess potential occupant exposures and risk reduction options from test results



Assessing: Review Your States School and State Regulations

EXAMPLE: MN Health and Safety Statute 123B.57 **Subd. 2. Contents of program.**

A district must adopt a health and safety program. ...

- (a) A hazardous substance plan must contain provisions for the removal or encapsulation of asbestos...
- (b) A fire and life safety plan ...
- (c) A facilities and equipment violation plan ..
- (d) A health, safety, and environmental management plan...
- (e) A plan to test for and mitigate radon produced hazards.**
- (f) A plan to monitor and improve indoor air quality.

Contact your State Radon Program!

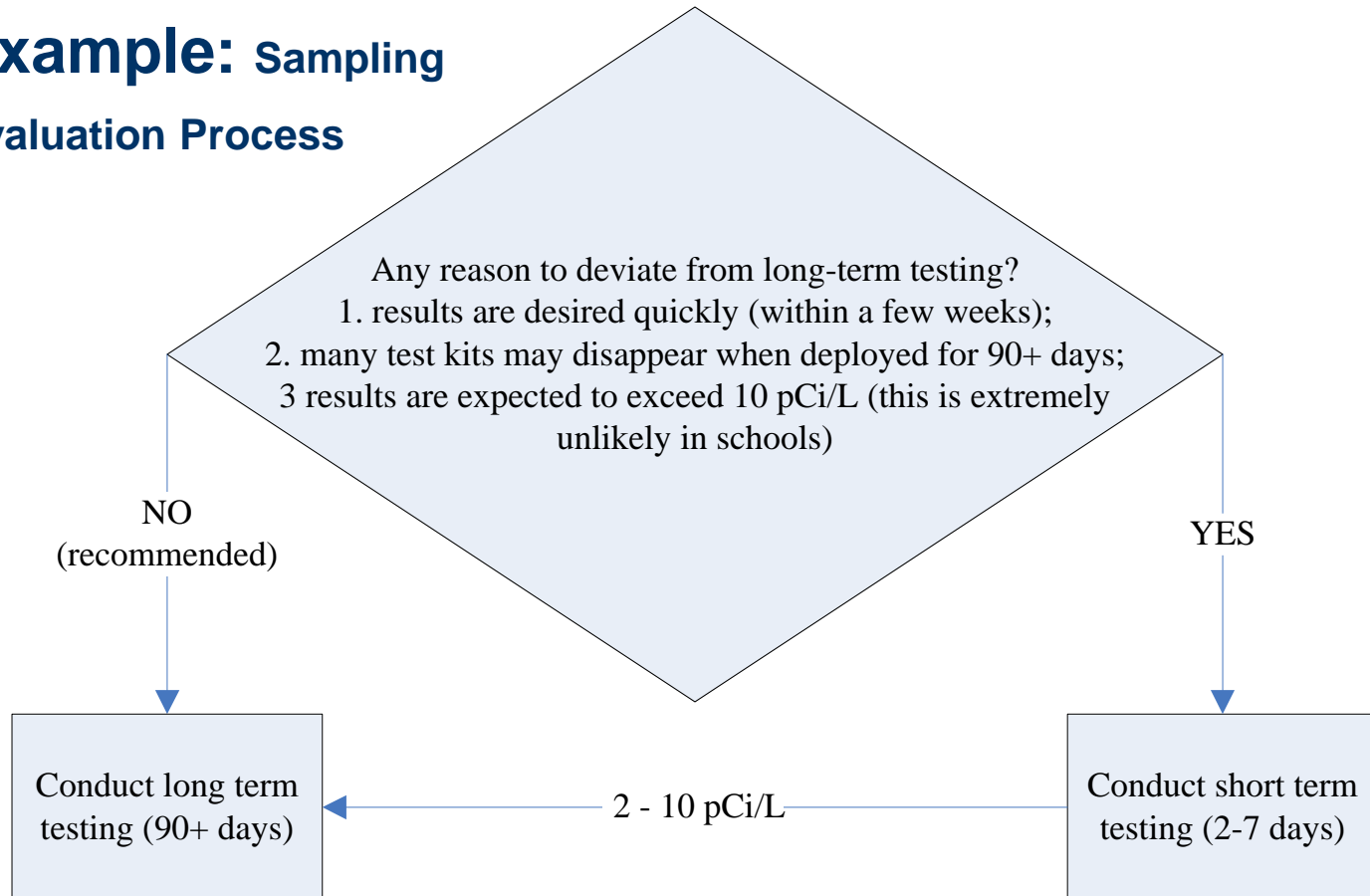
Evaluate Radon Testing Options

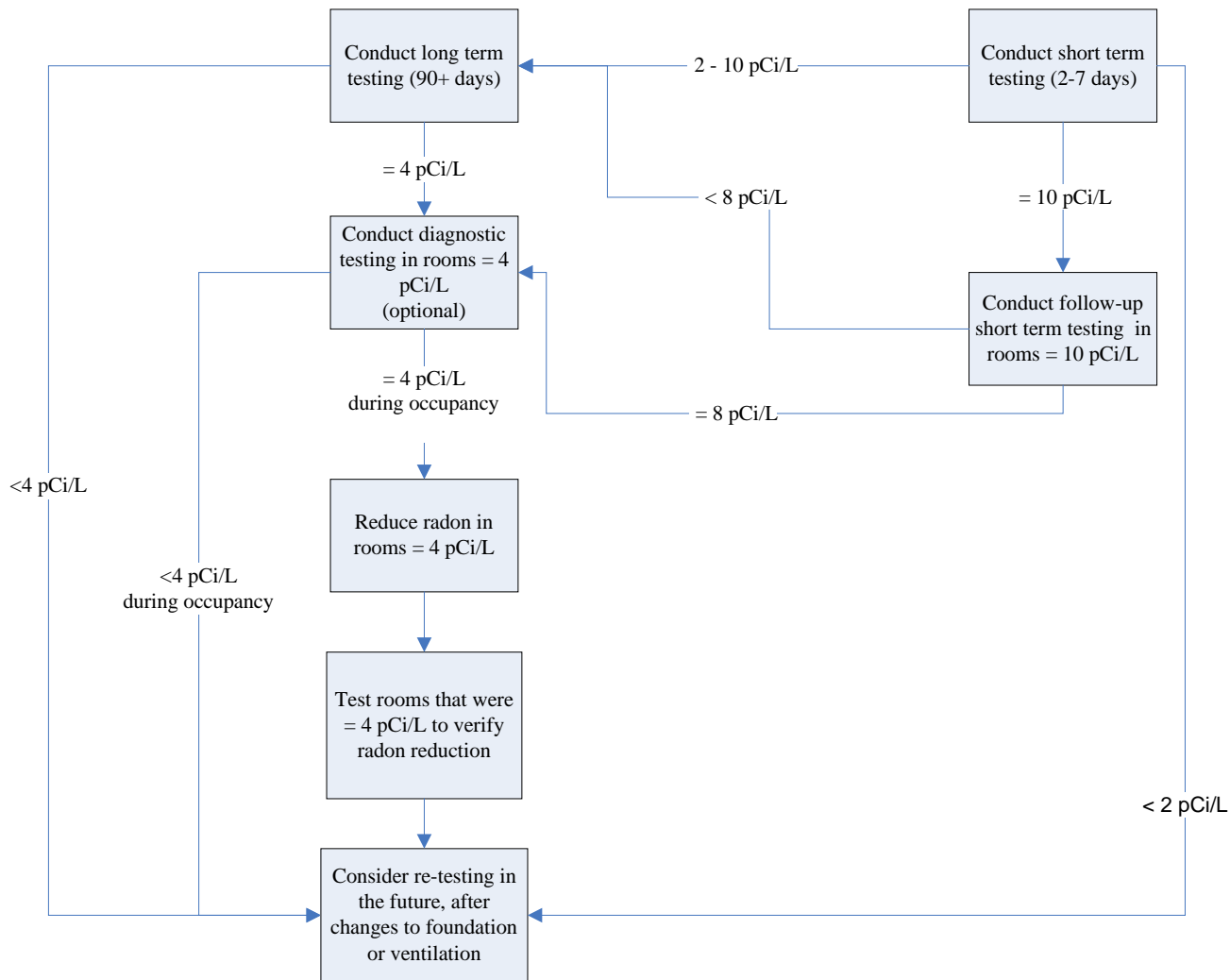
- Talk to superintendent first (Need Administrative Support)
- See EPA radon testing in schools guide
 - <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/>
- Test in winter (Closed Heating/Cooling conditions)
- Short term testing
 - Weekdays
- Long term testing
 - Better, but retrieval issue
- Develop sampling plan
 - When, where and how to deploy and retrieve radon samples
- Inform parents, staff (risk communication)

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Evaluating Radon Testing in Schools

Example: Sampling Evaluation Process





Initial testing should be conducted in all frequently-occupied ground contact rooms during the heating season. MDH recommends long term testing in schools unless a compelling reason exists for short term testing. Short-term testing should be done during school days (e.g., Mon-Fri). Further testing (follow-up, diagnostic testing and post-reduction) should be done in rooms = 4 pCi/L. For details. See “Model Radon Measurement Plan for Minnesota School”

MDH may be available to assist with all phases of radon testing in schools, including:

- finding test kit vendors,
- deploying test kits,
- conducting diagnostic testing,
- developing a radon reduction plan

Evaluating: Potential Radon Exposures

- Two technical solutions that can reduce occupant radon exposures in existing schools
 - HVAC
 - Source Control (ASD)



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Radon Mitigation – Balancing Air Flow

- Need to work with HVAC engineer, not a radon mitigator (they typically specialize in homes)
- Generally can increase fresh air volume to dilute radon concentrations and improve general Indoor Air Quality.
- **NEED A Plan to institutionalize this concept!**

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Radon Mitigation – Active Sub slab Depressurization (ASD)

- Need to work with highly qualified radon mitigator (most radon mitigators specialize in homes)
- True source control methodology
 - Also used for controlling vapor intrusion issues
 - NEED A Plan to maintain and continuously operate system!

Contact your State Radon Program!

Questions?

Dale Dorschner

Minnesota Department of Health

Indoor Environments and Radiation

(651) 201-4603

Dale.Dorschner@state.mn.us

Did I mention contacting your State Radon Program?