



We are writing to let you know that Home Forward is in the process of testing, mitigating when needed, and re-testing all of our public housing communities for radon. This work will be completed in all of our buildings by the end of 2020.

**Your building has been tested, and parts of the building showed radon levels above the EPA standards.** We are currently working with a licensed contractor to schedule radon mitigation in your building. We want to let you know what to expect, and ways to reduce the possible presence of radon in your apartment in the meantime. If you haven't already gotten a notice telling you when the work is scheduled to mitigate your apartment building, you'll get one soon.

### **What is radon?**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. It is present in the earth all over the world, and it enters buildings through cracks in the floors and walls, gaps around pipes and suspended floors, and other areas of buildings where the gas finds the least resistance to entering. When it's present, it's often found in places closest to the earth, such as basements and the lower floors of a home, apartment building or any other building.

### **What is the health risk?**

Exposure to elevated radon levels over a number of years increases the risk of lung cancer. Air circulation, such as opening windows and doors, helps to reduce radon. Included with this letter is information about ways to reduce the risk of radon and other health hazards in your home.

### **Where can I get more information?**

- On our website at [www.homeforward.org/radoninfo](http://www.homeforward.org/radoninfo), which includes our radon policy, Frequently Asked Questions, a translation of this letter in multiple languages, and links to other resources.
- At the Oregon Health Authority's website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/HEALTHYNEIGHBORHOODS/RADONGAS/Pages/healthrisks.aspx>
- At the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

We have been working with a reporter on a story about radon and public housing authorities across the country. We expect Home Forward will be featured in the article. It can be stressful to learn about something that could impact your home from reading or watching the news, and we want you to have all the facts about what Home Forward is doing and why. Radon is not

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unique to public housing, but we feel that it's important that we conduct this testing and ensure that Home Forward's properties have sufficiently low levels of radon.