

Kansas Radon Program Newsletter

Serving individuals certified in radon measurement, mitigation and laboratory services in Kansas.



Kansas Radon Program

April 2020

Questions? Let's Talk.

Certification Questions

Mark Ungerer/ Jason Meinholdt at KDHE: 785-296-1560

<http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm>

General Radon Questions

Brian Hanson at KSU: 785-532-4996

<http://www.kansasradonprogram.org/>

COVID-19 ISSUE:

- ✓ Radon Defined as Essential by State of Kansas
- ✓ Kansas Radon Program KSU Operations Information
- ✓ Free 30-minute Radon CE Courses in May
- ✓ Help AARST With Standards Review
- ✓ PPE Recommendations for Radon In-Home Visits
- ✓ AARST COVID-19 Resources for Radon
- ✓ Small Business COVID-19 Resources
- ✓ Self Care, Business Care: What Can We Do?

KANSAS ESSENTIAL FUNCTION FRAMEWORK DESIGNATION

On March 30, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly implemented a state wide “stay-at-home” order. This order (Executive Order 20-16) directs all state residents to stay in their homes or residences unless performing an essential function. To determine industries and businesses that are considered “essential services”, the Governor’s office created the Kansas Essential Function Framework (KEFF). Executive Order 20-16 is to remain in effect until April 19, 2020 but is subject to extension or revision at the Governor’s discretion.

On behalf of radon measurement and mitigation businesses in Kansas, the Kansas Radon Program submitted a request for review to the KEFF Team at the Governor’s office.

The KEFF Team has determined that businesses engaging in **radon measurement or mitigation activities are considered essential** under KEFF Section 400 Supply - subsection 9 - provide housing.

Under Executive Order 20-16, radon professionals may leave their homes to perform these essential functions of radon measurement and/or radon mitigation; this does not include the performance of other non-essential functions. If an employee is engaged only in the performance of non-essential functions, they must remain at home.

Additionally, under Executive Order 20-16, while performing essential functions you and your employees must still use telework capabilities and follow appropriate safety protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to the extent possible without significant disruption to essential functions.

This confirmation is subject to revision or revocation if the KEFF Team receives additional relevant information.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact KEFF@ks.gov

Radon measurement or mitigation activities are considered essential under KEFF Section 400 Supply - subsection 9 - provide housing.

MAY 2020 RADON WEBINAR SERIES

30-Minute Webinars Offered Weekly

The Kansas Radon Program is excited to announce our **FREE** May 2020 Radon Webinar Series.

Any Kansas certified radon contractor who attends a MINIMUM of four (4) of the five (5) 30-minute webinars can earn two (2) hours of Kansas continuing education credits

GENERAL RADON INFORMATION & HEALTH EFFECTS | 4/29 @ 11:00 AM CST

An overview of radon, including its chemical properties and origin in the soil, health effects, and radon entry into homes.



RADON MEASUREMENT FOR HOMEOWNERS | 5/6 @ 11:00 AM CST

An overview of radon measurement for current homeowners including radon levels across Kansas, statewide legislation related to radon, and homeowner radon testing options.

RADON MEASUREMENT DURING REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS | 5/13 @ 11:00 AM CST

An overview of radon measurements during real estate transactions including radon levels across Kansas, statewide legislation related to radon, and real estate testing options



RADON MITIGATION IN SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES | 5/20 @ 11:00 AM CST

An overview of radon reduction systems, including a brief review of radon entry, active soil depressurization (ASD) theory, and example ASD installation options.

RADON RESISTANT NEW CONSTRUCTION | 5/27 @ 11:00 AM CST

An overview of radon reduction systems, the potential for reducing radon, an introduction to the Appendix F of the International Residential Building Code (IRC), and the current communities in Kansas having adopted the Appendix F and steps to encourage local adoption.



REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://KSTATE.QUALTRICS.COM/JFE/FORM/SV_8PH36XY7M6QPI45](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/sv_8PH36XY7M6QPI45)

To Do: Help AARST

AARST has announced **public review** for several **ANSI-AARST Standards**:

Comment Deadline June 1, 2020

- Water Measurement
- Test Device Performance

Comment Deadline June 8, 2020

- ASD Harmonization: SGM-SF, RMS-MF and RMS-LB

These proposed standards can be downloaded for public review here:

www.standards.aarst.org/public-review

Kansas Radon Program At K-State Operations Information

The Kansas Radon Program (KRP) at K-State is open and providing services during the ongoing statewide COVID-19 shelter in place order. KRP staff are answering the general Kansas Radon Hotline (800) 693-5343, 8am-4:30pm Central Monday-Friday.

In addition, the KRP at K-State is hosting **5 half hour weekly webinars** on Wednesday's beginning April 29 at 11am Central. Kansas radon certified personnel who **attend a MINIMUM of four (4)** of the webinars will **receive 2 hours of Kansas continuing education (CE)**. See the announcement at left for schedule, topics, and registration information.

Contact Brian Hanson at (785) 532-4996 with any questions about current or upcoming KRP activities.

Personal Protection Guidance for Radon Technicians During COVID-19

Radon technicians who work during the “stay-at-home” order will inevitably have to make in-home visits. **Measurement and mitigation work both require visiting the client’s home, but it is still possible to protect yourself and your client from potential exposure.**

Before going into any home ask the following:

- Has anyone in the home traveled to/from a city, state, or country identified as a hotspot within the last 14 days?
- Has anyone in the home been exposed to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Is anyone in the home currently showing signs of illness such as a fever greater than 100 degrees, shortness of breath, and/or a cough?

If the answer to any of the questions is **YES**, the measurement or mitigation should be rescheduled for **no earlier than 14 DAYS LATER**.

If there are no indications of risk or illness in the home, the measurement or mitigation can proceed. **When arriving, ask the same questions as above** to reassess the situation and reschedule, if necessary.

Observe the following precautions during your visit:

- Limit the number of technicians for mitigation to one or two at the most.
- Consider taking additional items for the job such as a facemask, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other PPE.
- Do not shake hands or touch others when greeting or interacting.
- Wash hands frequently, or use hand sanitizer to limit your contact with additional parts of the home or when soap and water is not available.
- Limit contact with surfaces or items in the home and do not share tablets, tools, writing utensils, or cell phones. Wipe down all items regularly.
- Always follow current COVID-19 guidance to protect yourself and others.

KDHE has created a tip sheet for workers who by necessity are visiting homes during the COVID-19 shelter in place order.

The tip sheet is available on the KRP website: <https://kansasradonprogram.org/COVID-19>.

Also available on the KRP website are several fact sheets you are welcome to download and provide to your clients electronically.



AARST Compilation of Federal COVID-19 Resources for Radon Professionals

The American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists (AARST) has compiled a list of federal COVID-19 business financial assistance at <https://aarst.org/covid-19-resources/>. Included are links to the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program, SBA Disaster Loan Assistance, and other useful links. The KRP encourages all Kansas certified radon professionals to join AARST and support not only the state radon industry but also support the national radon industry. AARST members receive many membership benefits that add significant value to your business (<https://aarst.org/member-benefits-2/>).

Kansas Small Business Development Center <https://www.kansassbdc.net/covid19>

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
- Webinars (Disaster Loan, CARES Act, and SBA Disaster Loan Training)

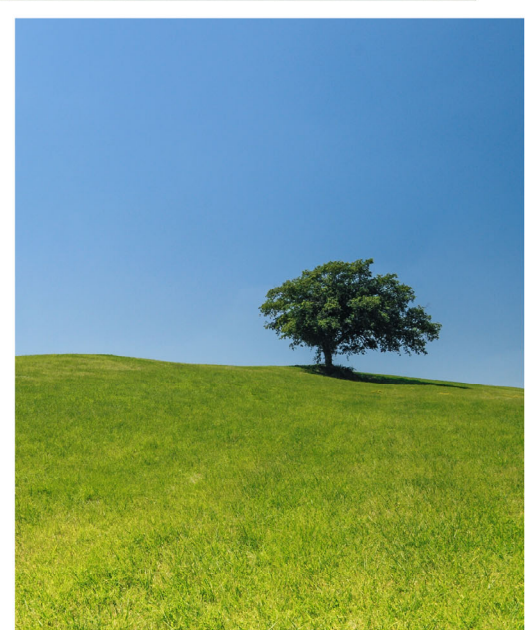
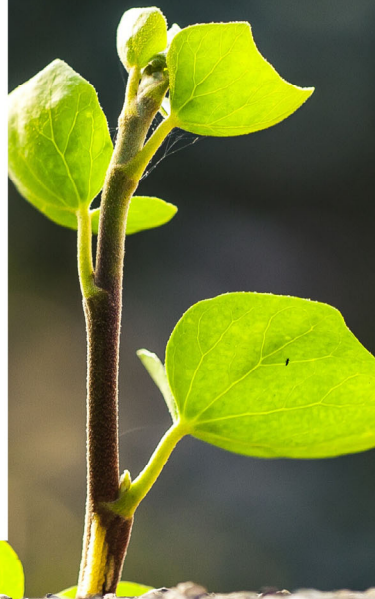
U.S. Small Business Administration

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

- Coronavirus Funding Options
- Guidance for Businesses and Employers
- Local Assistance
- Join the SBA's Relief Efforts
- SBA Products and Resources
- Government Contracting

We encourage you to pursue local grants for other assistance regarding the impacts on your business due to COVID-19. Please refer to <https://www.governor.kansas.gov> for latest updates and information related to COVID-19.

BY FANI LIMBEROPOULOS, KDHE - KANSAS RADON PROGRAM



SELF CARE; BUSINESS CARE WHAT CAN WE DO?

We are in unprecedented times in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic response. In the matter of a few days, Kansas has become a state of homeschool parents, work-from-home professionals, and concerned small business owners. If you are like me, you might feel like you are living in a carnival ride as these things swirl around you. If you are like me, you are also in good, socially-distant company.

This is what I do know: we are grieving. We have things to grieve—we have lost many points of social connection, we have lost our routines, we have temporarily shuttered businesses and drastically changed how we live our lives. If you have not already done so, take a bit to sit with that thought. It would be convenient if there was a set of one-size-fits-all, apply-twice-per-day-to-affected-areas solution.

WE CAN CARE FOR OURSELVES

What does self care really look like?

Practicing self care is investing in things which contribute to your physical, mental, and spiritual well-being: investing in yourself by intentionally reducing anxiety and improving mood.

Here are some simple, free things we can do for ourselves:

- Sleep, wake and eat on a normal schedule
- Spend time in nature with the purpose of enjoying the time — the Japanese call it “forest bathing”
- Get some gentle morning sun rays on your skin
- Get and stay connected — stay in touch with loved ones via technology
- Play music or an instrument — whistle, sing, hum. Don't worry, you don't need to be in tune!
- Create beauty — write, draw, craft, build, paint...
- Invest in your soul — meditate, attend virtual worship, pray, read



WE CAN INVEST IN OUR BUSINESS

If you are doing fine, or find yourself with some extra time on your hands, and might be able to make some investments into your radon business, there are some things you could do:

- Reschedule postponed jobs
- Backup your computer/files
- Check instrument calibrations and QC sample status
- Check into federal, state and local small business resources
- Review your QAP and make updates...different equipment, different employees, different practices? If you said yes to one of these, you need an update!! Email us, we are here to help!!
- Connect with real estate agents, builders/contractors, or school districts and remind them that you are their local radon professional
- Update your social media outlets
- Participate in an AARST Standards Review

The goal is never perfection, but to invest small amounts of energy and time that will buoy your spirit. We will make it through this time of distancing and pandemic response, one day at a time.

**BE SAFE
AND
TAKE CARE**