



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

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DIRECTOR

Radiation Safety Month

To assist North Carolina citizens and the healthcare providers Radiation Protection pursued through the Department of Health and Human Services a proclamation signed by Governor Roy Cooper to designate November as Radiation Safety Month. The proclamation was presented to the Radiation Protection Section. Radiation safety is a collaborative effort that involves the citizens receiving services, the healthcare providers, imaging professionals and radiation workers who provide the service and Radiation Protection supporting or sponsoring state initiatives to educate the public and promote education and guidance.

The authority to regulate ionizing radiation in X-ray, mammography, and radioactive materials facilities and to regulate non-ionizing radiation in tanning facilities resides within RPS. In addition to the regulatory responsibilities, RPS also had a radon program whose sole mission is to educate the public regarding the public regarding the hidden dangers of radon. RPS also performs radiation environmental monitoring in and around various locations throughout the state including areas in the vicinity of four nuclear power facilities. There are over 8,260 x-ray facilities, 250 mammography facilities, 1,800 radioactive materials facilities, and 999 tanning facilities in North Carolina.

Two of the core missions of the Radiation Protection Section to the citizens of our State are to:

- Reduce radiation exposure to the citizens and occupational workers of North Carolina; reduce radiation contamination to the environment and to protect all from radiation hazards.
- Ensure all licensees and registrants have equal opportunity to comply with applicable regulations through education and guidance.

Success in our mission is dependent upon the assistance of the regulated community and the individual citizens of our state in becoming aware and taking an active part in the awareness of radiation safety. Radiation Protection is consistently looking for opportunities to improve the awareness of radiation safety and reduce radiation exposure to the citizens and occupational workers in our state. Materials such as the dose tracking card and pregnancy posters were developed with the hope that citizens and healthcare providers would work together to improve the health of individuals by learning and sharing information about exposure to radiation. The Radiation Safety Culture Policy Statement and pamphlets were developed to emphasize radiation safety over competing goals to ensure protection of people and the environment.

RPS encourages healthcare providers to promote the use of dose tracking cards and encourage citizens to be active in keeping a record of lifetime doses and previous locations of studies. This may assist the provider in acquiring records of studies that could help in the diagnosis or prevention of unnecessary repeated exposures.

RADIATION PROTECTION SECTION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



RPS encourages healthcare providers to post signs in rooms where x-ray procedures are performed to raise awareness of citizens who may be pregnant of the importance of communicating this information to staff at the facility before having the exam. “Inform a Tech” or “Inform a Doctor” pregnancy posters are available in English and Spanish and are free and printable for healthcare providers on our website [ncradiation.net](https://radiation.ncdhhs.gov/Xray/postings.htm) where you can click on the link for pregnancy posters <https://radiation.ncdhhs.gov/Xray/postings.htm>

RPS also encourages radiologic technologist and all operators of x-ray equipment to accept the responsibility of decreasing dose to patients by taking the Pledge challenge for the “Image Gently” and “Image Wisely” Campaign. You can click on the links www.imagegently.org or www.imagewisely.org

Radiation Protection endorses and is committed to development of a culture of radiation safety. We encourage healthcare providers to promote a culture of radiation safety through review of their radiation safety programs and to ensure all occupational staff have been trained and are aware of radiation safety practices. During radiation safety month we encourage you to designate a day to review and update your procedures if you have not already done so this year.

During this month of “Radiation Safety Month” RPS salutes all the professionals working throughout North Carolina who are working in the field of radiation to minimize the hazards of radiation exposure. We appreciate their efforts to provide quality care to our citizens.

Lastly, we encourage you to use this proclamation to bring awareness to the citizens and occupational workers of efforts to provide safety practices and to encourage a safety culture throughout our state.

For more information, visit the following links: Radiation Protection at <https://radiation.ncdhhs.gov/>.