

Radon Awareness Video Transcript

[Title card appears with text and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health logo. Text on screen: "This is a CDC/NCEH video testimonial." Gentle music begins.]

[Screen depicts Jackie, an African American female cancer survivor, standing in front of an apartment building.]

Jackie: My name is Jackie Nixon. And I'm 73 years old and I am a cancer survivor.

[Screen depicts Jackie sitting for an interview in a church building with a stained glass window behind her. She is dressed in a black suit and a pink top, and her hair is up. Views up close and full length.]

Jackie: I always was one that was big on exercising, eating right. So my health was perfect. I never had the flu in my life. I got one cold, maybe a year.

[Screen depicts Jackie walking outside. She is now wearing a coat.]

[Screen depicts Jackie back in the church setting. She is sitting and talking.]

Jackie: I couldn't ask for more. The indication that I noticed something wrong was when I was singing. And for example, if I sing a note, and you have so many beats to hold that note, I would get, like, half of the way. And I'd lose air. And later on, it became apparent that part of the reason was lung cancer. The first thought was, oh my God, I'm going to die.

[Screen depicts Jackie back outside walking next to a field.]

Jackie: I did think about, you know, things I might have done in the past that might've caused it. But bottom line is, is that I never smoked a day in my life. I had the surgery and I was home for seven months.

[Screen depicts Jackie back in the church setting talking.]

Jackie: Once I was able to go back out again, I went to a meeting, and there was a gentleman there who was a home inspector. "Did you ever hear of radon?" I can't explain it to you, but for some reason I immediately knew that was it.

[Screen depicts Jackie at her apartment building walking outside and standing on balcony.]

Jackie: I took my own money and I got the highest-level monitors. And I asked my neighbors, because you have to test at the lower levels.

[Screen depicts Jackie walking alongside the outside of her apartment complex, a grey multilevel building, with landscaping with beige wild grass and a parking lot.]

Jackie: So we tested the building and Rose's apartment came out to 18 picocuries. The government level, EPA level guideline is four picocuries.

[Screen depicts Jackie standing outside.]

Jackie: I said, "Well, I know what I can do."

[Screen depicts Jackie walking alongside a park outside.]

Jackie: And I decided that I was going to start my own advocacy. Just basically start telling people.

[Jackie is now in her doctor's office. Dr. Maley is a middle-aged Caucasian male. They are looking at lung X-rays on a light box and we see them talk about the scans. Dr. Maley is sitting at a desk with a computer in the background. He is wearing glasses and a white lab coat with a black sweater and blue collared shirt underneath. Gentle upbeat music plays.]

Dr. Maley: I think in, specifically in Jackie's case, I mean, she was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2015.

[Jackie and Dr. Maley are walking outside on a path next to the office, discussing her experience. Dr. Maley is now in black slacks and a green coat.]

Dr. Maley: And that was in a very rapidly changing era for radon and lung cancer. Had she been diagnosed in 2000? We would've never even thought of her case as radon-related.

[Jackie is sitting in the office talking. The screen shows closeup of lung X-rays along with Jackie and Dr. Maley talking in his office.]

Dr. Maley: And so the timing of the two—her diagnosis and the growth in knowledge—sort of coincided. And as time went by, in Jackie's case, as the years went by, she became like a health care hero.

[Screen depicts Jackie and Dr. Maley walking outside, talking, with coats on, smiling.]

[Screen depicts Jackie standing in field outside looking into the distance, full view.]

Dr. Maley: And she helped educate, you know, people around her, the general public, but also me, you know. Because then I thought, wow, this is real.

[Screen depicts Jackie and Dr. Maley walking outside, talking, then Jackie standing in field outside looking into the distance, close up, then Jackie sitting in church talking.]

Jackie: Pay attention to your health, period. Do not ignore things. Radon affects your lungs. You may not have any symptoms—zero symptoms. So, test your house for radon and know your numbers.

[Gentle upbeat music continues. Blue screen with white text reads:

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking.

- Test your home.
- Reduce radon levels.
- Raise awareness.

Visit CDC's radon website for information and resources on radon, testing, and reduction:

[cdc.gov/radon/](https://www.cdc.gov/radon/)

Get live help for your radon questions: 1-800-55RADON (557-2366).

Operated by Kansas State University in partnership with EPA.]