



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY

Washington, DC 20460

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OFFICE OF  
AIR AND  
RADIATION

SUBJECT: RadNet Program Continuity of Operations During the COVID-19  
Pandemic

FROM: Lee Ann B. Veal, Director  
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TO: EPA Regional Radiation Program Contacts

We've received a few questions about the RadNet system status in light of the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic. These are undoubtedly historic times, so I want to take a moment to give you an update.

As you know, the National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) manages the RadNet program. NAREL has been in near-daily communication with the RadNet personnel who change filters at the monitors. We have asked that they maintain normal procedures to the best of their ability, *while prioritizing the health and safety of themselves and their families*. We recognize that current social distancing orders and/or mandated facility closures may impact the ability for some RadNet sites to be serviced. At present, and in recognition that this is only a snapshot taken within the context of a long-term emergency, RadNet is meeting its routine operational goals.

RadNet monitors can operate for several weeks without a filter change. If filters cannot be changed, eventually, air flow rates may decrease as filters continue to collect material. In those cases, the gamma gross count rate results will become more reflective of ambient radiation levels than radiation levels of particulate collected on the air filters. NAREL staff are still able to remotely identify and quantify abnormal, man-made radionuclides with data transmitted from RadNet monitors. In addition, reduced air flow rates will not affect the exposure rate measurements at the 64 RadNet sites that have this capability. Information on site locations and the overall program is available at [www.epa.gov/radnet](http://www.epa.gov/radnet).

We remain committed to monitoring the environment for radiation and responding to any potential radiological emergencies. Along with the RadNet system, EPA has access to the International Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization's monitoring data, and we have air monitoring capabilities that may be deployed in the case of a known incident. To help ensure that EPA is speaking with one voice and to ensure that NAREL continues to get feedback directly from our RadNet volunteers during this very challenging time, we kindly ask that you not reach out to RadNet volunteers in your Region. If you get technical questions, please redirect them to John Griggs at [griggs.john@epa.gov](mailto:griggs.john@epa.gov), 334-270-3401. As always, press inquiries should be directed to the Agency's Press Office at 202-564-4255.