Wireless health and safety

Bell recognizes that some stakeholders may have concerns about the potential for long-term health effects from wireless communications networks and devices. Many studies have been conducted or are ongoing to assess whether wireless phones, networks, and towers pose a potential health risk. Based on the available scientific evidence, there are no established health risks from exposures to the low levels of radiofrequency (RF) emitted by cell phones and antenna installations.[1]

National and international organizations work together to set and enforce thresholds for RF energy intensity which ensure our safety. In Canada, Health Canada reviews studies from around the world and also conducts its own research and sets guidelines for human exposure to radiofrequencies. The guidelines are documented as **Safety Code 6**. Moreover, the federal Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (**ISED**) is responsible for the enforcement on these guidelines, including through a process of device and equipment certification as well as field audits. The safety and security of our customers is a top priority. Bell only purchases mobile phones from manufacturers that meet Health Canada's Safety Code 6 RF emission requirements for devices. Bell also ensures that all of the wireless network equipment that we place on towers, buildings and other support structures meets Health Canada's Safety Code 6 requirements. Bell is a member of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), which monitors worldwide scientific research related to mobile technologies.

The deployment of 5G or “fifth generation” systems – the next generation of wireless technology – is expected to enable a fully-connected mobile society and deliver unprecedented benefits to citizens, industry and government. Mobile communications use different portions of the radiofrequency spectrum, often referred to as low-, mid- and high-band spectrum. Millimeter Wave spectrum is one of the bands that will be used for 5G

[1] Health Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/everyday-things-emit-radiation/cell-phones-towers.html

deployment. Millimeter Wave spectrum is not new, it is already being used for fixed wireless communications and satellite internet services. Devices using millimetre waves have always been part of Health Canada's guidelines, which cover the entire RF spectrum range, and do not pose any threat to human health. For more information, please see the CWTA's "Setting the Record Straight On 5G Wireless & RF Safety" brochure.

GRI 413-1

When selecting the location of new telecommunication sites as we continue to expand our networks to meet coverage or capacity requirements, Bell is sensitive to community concerns with respect to location and placement of facilities. Before selecting or acquiring property for any new telecommunication site, Bell first determines whether it is technically possible to place antennas on existing structures, such as tall buildings and pre-existing towers. Bell also complies fully with ISED's guidelines for public and municipal consultation as laid out in CPC-2-0-03, Issue 5, Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems.

In all cases, Bell works with community officials to identify local preferences and review established protocols. We engage in meaningful dialogue with municipalities, provincial as well as federal agencies and Indigenous communities to mitigate local concerns about tower placement, operation and design. We also undertake thorough public consultations for proposed wireless antenna sites with local residents and stakeholders and we routinely conduct open houses, public meetings and written consultations in communities across the country to provide information and understand local views on proposed tower sites.