

Wireless health and safety

Bell is a member of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), which monitors worldwide scientific research related to mobile technologies. Many studies have been performed or are ongoing to assess whether wireless phones, networks and towers pose a potential health risk.

While some studies suggest links to certain conditions, others conclude there is no established causation between mobile phone usage and adverse health effects. In 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields from wireless phones as possibly carcinogenic to humans, but also indicated that chance, bias or confounding could not be ruled out with reasonable confidence. The IARC also called for additional research into long-term heavy use of mobile phones.

National and international organizations work together to set and enforce thresholds for RF energy intensity. 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 Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (**ISED**) is responsible for approving radiofrequency equipment and performing compliance assessments and has chosen Health Canada's Safety Code 6, which sets the limits for safe exposure to radiofrequency emissions at home or at work, as its exposure standard. This code also outlines safety requirements for the installation and operation of devices that emit radiofrequency fields such as mobile phones, Wi-Fi technologies and base station antennas. ISED has made compliance to Safety Code 6 mandatory for all proponents and operators of radio installations.

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 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. For more information, please see the CWTA's "**Setting the Record Straight On 5G Wireless & RF Safety**" brochure.

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.

When selecting the location of new telecommunication sites, 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.

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