



Environmental Health Trust
P.O. Box 58, Teton Village WY 83025
ehtrust.org

An Open Letter to Dolly Parton and Miley Cyrus on Cell Phone Radiation

February 15, 2021

Dear Dolly Parton and Miley Cyrus:

We love your music and know that you both care deeply about protecting women's health. We urge you to consider our heartfelt letter to you. We need your help. We understand you must have had no idea that a cell phone is a two way microwave radio that should never be kept close to the body.

The Super Bowl commercial featuring Dolly Parton pulling a cell phone out of her bra creates the illusion that it is safe to keep a cell phone in the bra. It is not. The bra should be a no cell phone zone.

We are writing you both to request your help in raising awareness about the need to reduce cell phone radiation.

Most women and girls are unaware that cell phones emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation and that hundreds of doctors and scientists advise that this type of radiation is not healthy. Most people are unaware that credible [scientific evidence](#) is mounting linking cancer as well as brain and reproductive impacts to cell phone radiation.

All cell phones have fine print instructions hidden deep in online manuals that instruct users to avoid direct contact. In fact phones could [violate U.S. government safety limits](#) for human exposure to RF radiation -up to 11 times when placed against the body.

Cell phones should not be in the bra. For example, the Google Pixel 5a (5G) safety information [states](#), "Keep the phone away from your body to meet the distance requirement." EHT has a webpage with numerous examples of the [Fine Print Warnings](#) for the top phone models and other wireless devices. Manufacturers actually specify that the phone should be kept at least 5 mm to 1.5 cm distance from the body.

The California Department of Health released an advisory on how to reduce cell phone radiation [stating](#), “Carry your cell phone in a backpack, briefcase, or purse; NOT in a pocket, bra or belt holster.” [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [North Carolina Public Health Department](#) both state “Avoid carrying your phone against the body like in a pocket, sock, or bra. Cell phone manufacturers cannot guarantee that the amount of radiation you are absorbing will be at a safe level.”

Published [case reports](#) document young women developing unusual breast cancers located directly underneath the antennas of where their phones were stored, directly where they placed their cell phones in their bra. A [2020 case control study](#) found that women who used phones close to their bodies had up to five times more breast cancer than others

So long as the phone is on it is sending and receiving microwave radiation thousands of times an hour, even when you are not talking on the phone.

Numerous scientists, including senior advisors to the World Health Organization, have concluded that if cell phone radiation were evaluated at this time, it would be considered a probable, if not fully confirmed human carcinogen (See [Carlberg and Hardell, 2017](#); [Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services \(European Parliament\) & Belpoggi, 2021](#); [Miller et al., 2018](#); [Melnick, 2019](#); [Portier, 2021](#)). A systematic review and meta-analysis of case-control studies found evidence that linked cellular phone use to increased tumor risk (See [Choi et al., 2020](#)).

We hope that you will join us in protecting women by sharing lifesaving information on the importance of reducing cell phone radiation. Please inform women that the bra should be a no cell phone zone.

Sincerely,

Devra Davis, PhD, MPH
President and Founder Environmental Health Trust
Visiting Professor of Medicine
Hebrew University Hadassah Medical Center

Theodora Scarato MSW
Executive Director Environmental Health Trust

Doctors and scientists recommend reducing exposure to cell phone radiation:

- The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition created an educational curriculum for classrooms to prevent breast cancer. Go to “[Let’s Talk Prevention Classroom Module 3 Cell Phone and Wireless](#) to download the curriculum.
- Over 200 scientists who are experts in electromagnetic radiation have signed the [EMF Scientists Appeal](#) which states “numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines. Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological

disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life.”

- Over 400 scientists and doctors have signed the [5G Appeal](#) which states, “5G will substantially increase exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF) on top of the 2G, 3G, 4G, Wi-Fi, etc. for telecommunications already in place. RF-EMF has been proven to be harmful for humans and the environment.”
- Over 3,500 medical doctors signed onto a 2020 Consensus statement that wireless RF has been proven to damage biological systems at intensities below government limits ([See signatures here, PDF of Consensus Statement](#)).
- **Numerous additional appeal sinclude:** [International Society of Doctors for Environment](#), [Cyprus Medical Association](#), [the Vienna Austrian Medical Chamber](#) and [the Cyprus National Committee on Environment and Children’s Health](#), [Belgium Doctors Appeal](#), [Canadian Doctors](#), [Cyprus Medical Association](#), [Physicians of Turin, Italy](#), [the German Doctors Appeal](#), [International Appeal to Stop 5G on Earth and Space](#), [Letter to President Trump](#), [Letter to President Biden](#) and [Chilean Doctors](#).
- EHT has resources on [how to reduce cell phone radiation here](#) and [factsheets/posters here](#).
- European Parliament requested a research report “[Health Impact of 5G](#)” released in July 2021 concluding that commonly used RFR frequencies (450 to 6000 MHz) are probably carcinogenic for humans and clearly affect male fertility with possible adverse effects on the development of embryos, fetuses and newborns.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

[Simple Steps to Reduce Cell Phone Radiation](#)

[Simple Steps to Use Safer Technology at Home](#)

The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition “[Let’s Talk Prevention Classroom Module 3 Cell Phone and Wireless](#)

[Green Gazette: Health Issues | Save the Girls. Make the Bra a No-Phone Zone](#)

[CBS News Story: Doctors: Women who store phone in bras at risk for breast cancer](#)

[California Department of Public Health Cell Phone Radiation Advisory](#)

VIDEO RESOURCES

[2013 Lecture by Dr. Lisa Bailey, former president of the American Cancer Society of California at the San Francisco Commonwealth Club](#)

CBC Investigative Reports: [The Secret Inside Your Cellphone](#)

[Dr. Devra Davis: The Truth About Cell Phone Radiation, Melbourne University](#)

[Rapid Fire - What Brain and Sperm Share and Why Care | Dr. Devra Davis | TEDx Jackson Hole](#)

[Health Effects of Cellphone & Cell Tower Radiation: Implications for 5G, Dr. Joel Moskowitz](#)

REFERENCES

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RF Radiation and Cancer

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Miller, A. B., Morgan, L. L., Udasin, I., & Davis, D. L. (2018). Cancer epidemiology update, following the 2011 IARC evaluation of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (Monograph 102). *Environmental Research*, 167, 673–683. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2018.06.043>

Miller, A. B., Sears, M. E., Morgan, L. L., Davis, D. L., Hardell, L., Oremus, M., & Soskolne, C. L. (2019). Risks to Health and Well-Being From Radio-Frequency Radiation Emitted by Cell Phones and Other Wireless Devices. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 7. <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpubh.2019.00223>

T MOBILE

[T-MOBILE Campaign “Do It For the Phones”](#)

[“Dolly Parton and Miley Cyrus Help 5G Phones Come True”](#)

[“Miley Cyrus Sings a Song for 5G Phones”](#)

[“Miley Cyrus - Do it for the Phones \(Official Video\)”](#)

February 15, 2021

Mike Sievert
President and CEO,
T-Mobile 3625 132nd Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

Dear Mr. Sievert:

We are writing with a request that you urgently take down the Super Bowl commercial featuring Dolly Parton pulling a cell phone out of her bra. The new advertising campaign for 5G phones that features Dolly Parton telling Miley Cyrus to use her voice to “help 5G phones’ dreams come true” sends a misleading message to women. It creates the illusion that a cell phone in the bra is safe.

Consumers have a right to know that when they carry a cell phone in their bra, the cell phone radiation emissions could violate the U.S. FCC safety limits for human exposure because the transmitting antenna is too close to breast tissue.

Our requests to T- Mobile

1. Take down the Dolly Parton, Miley Cyrus Ad *Cell Phone In the Bra* Campaign.
2. Inform consumers that cell phones should not be carried in the bra.
3. Halt 5G deployment until safety is assured.

We base our request on the following facts:

1. Cell phones have hidden instructions to keep away from your body.

As I’m sure you know, all cell phones have fine print instructions hidden deep in user manuals or legal disclaimers that instruct cell phone users against placing a transmitting cell phone in direct contact with the body. These instructions apply to breast tissue.

These instructions exist because cell phones emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation. Manufacturers premarket test phones in positions with a separation distance between the body and phone to ensure the phone's RF radiation emissions are compliant with U.S. limits for human exposure. If the phone is used at a closer distance, the body can absorb more RF radiation than US regulations allow.

For example, the Google Pixel 5a (5G) safety information [states](#), “Keep the phone away from your body to meet the distance requirement.” EHT has a webpage with numerous examples of the [Fine Print Warnings](#) including:

- Apple iPhone 13- 5mm distance
- Google Pixel 5a (5G) - 1 cm distance
- Samsung Galaxy Z 5G - 1.5 cm distance

2. A cell phone in the bra can violate cell phone radiation safety limits.

A cell phone is emitting pulsed RF non stop, even when you are not talking on the cell phone. This RF radiation is absorbed into your body tissues. [Studies](#) show that cell phones could violate U.S. government safety limits for human exposure to RF radiation up to 11 times when phones are pressed up against the body.

We have [this data](#) because the French government French National Frequencies Agency (ANFR) has tested hundreds of cell phones for radiation levels since 2012. However, unlike regulatory compliance tests, the ANFR tests were performed with the phone in several positions, including at body contact. The results were not publicly known until 2016 after pressure from legal actions of French physician Dr. Marc Arazi and the [Phonagate Alert Association](#). These tests revealed that the majority of cell phones tested exceeded regulatory limits when tested at body contact. The French government cell phone radiation data can be found [here](#).

A 2019 French government Order of the Minister for Solidarity and Health and the Minister for the Economy and Finance, stated consumers should be informed that they should use speakerphone to keep the phone away from their head, limit frequency and duration of cell phone calls for children and phones have instructions that state “keep away from the belly of pregnant women, Keep away from the lower abdomen of adolescents” ([Order of 15 November 2019 Relating to the Display of the Specific Absorption Rate of Radio Equipment and to Consumer Information, 2019](#)). Several other countries have laws and orders in place to inform consumers about the RFR from the device and educate the public to reduce exposure.

3. Cell phone radiation can cause cancer.

Scientific reviews conclude that cell phone RF radiation can cause cancer. Senior advisors to the World Health Organization have concluded that if cell phone radiation were evaluated at this time, it would be considered a probable, if not fully confirmed human carcinogen ([Carlberg and Hardell, 2017](#); [Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services \(European Parliament\) & Belpoggi, 2021](#); [Miller et al., 2018](#); [Melnick, 2019](#); [Portier, 2021](#)).

4. Women who carry phones in their bra are developing breast cancer

Published [case reports](#) document young women developing unusual breast cancers located directly underneath the skin -where they placed their cell phones in their bra. A [2020 case control study](#) found cell phone use linked to increased breast cancer risk, particularly in women who used phones close to their breast.

Cell phones transmit radiofrequency radiation all the time, even when you are not talking on the phone. A systematic review and meta-analysis of case-control studies found evidence that linked cellular phone use to increased tumor risk ([Choi et al., 2020](#)).

5. Doctors warn that cell phones should not be carried in the bra.

Numerous doctors recommend that people keep the phone away from the brain and body, especially the breast.

- In 2013, breast surgeon Dr. Lisa Bailey, former president of the American Cancer Society of California gave [a lecture](#) at the San Francisco Commonwealth club recommending women keep cell phones out of the bra.
- The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition created an educational curriculum for classrooms to prevent breast cancer. Go to “[Let’s Talk Prevention Classroom Module 3 Cell Phone and Wireless](#) to download the curriculum.
- In 2017 the California Department of Health released an advisory on how to reduce cell phone radiation [stating](#), “Carry your cell phone in a backpack, briefcase, or purse; NOT in a pocket, bra or belt holster.”
- [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [North Carolina Public Health Department’s Department](#) both state “Avoid carrying your phone against the body like in a pocket, sock, or bra. Cell phone manufacturers cannot guarantee that the amount of radiation you are absorbing will be at a safe level.”
- EHT has strategies on [how to reduce cell phone radiation here](#) and [factsheets/posters here](#).

6. Research Indicates that 5G Phones and 5G Networks Pose Health Risks

Here are some examples of research on radio frequency- including frequencies emitted from low/mid band 5G networks, small cells, cell towers, cell phones and wireless electronics.

- European Parliament requested a research report “[Health Impact of 5G](#)” released in July 2021 concluding that commonly used RFR frequencies (450 to 6000 MHz) are probably carcinogenic for humans *and* clearly affect male fertility with possible adverse effects on the development of embryos, fetuses and newborns.
- A review on real world exposure to 5G published in *Toxicology Letters* found that 5 G will have systemic effects as well as adverse effects to the skin and eyes ([Kostoff et al., 2020](#)).
- A landmark three part **2021 research review** on effects of non ionizing radiation to wildlife published in *Reviews on Environmental Health* by U.S experts, including former U.S. Fish and Wildlife senior biologist Albert Manville, states current science should trigger urgent regulatory action citing more than 1,200 scientific references which found adverse biological effects to wildlife from even very low intensities of non ionizing radiation with findings of impacts to orientation and migration, reproduction, mating, nest, den building and survivorship ([Levitt et al., 2021a](#), [Levitt et al., 2021b](#), [Levitt et al., 2021c](#)).
- 2021 systematic reviews that find RFR can harm sperm ([Kim et al., 2021](#), [Sungjoon et al. 2021](#), [Yu et al., 2021](#)).
- A 2021 systematic review on the effects of RFR to male reproductive hormones found that wireless can decrease testosterone ([Maluin et al, 2021](#)).
- A review on the genetic effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields found DNA strand breaks, micronucleus formation, and chromosomal structural changes ([Lai 2021](#)).
- A systematic review published in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences found that neuronal ion channels are particularly affected ([Bertagna et al 2021](#)).

- A review in the International Journal of Oncology describes how EMFs lead to dysfunction of ion channels which lead to reactive oxygen species/free radical overproduction providing “ a complete picture” of how exposure may indeed lead to DNA damage and related pathologies, including cancer,” ([Panagopoulos et al. 2021](#)).
- The Switzerland Institute of the Environment expert published review found increased oxidative stress in the majority of animal studies and cell studies with exposures within regulatory limits ([Schuermann et al., 2021](#)) corroborating an earlier review ([Yakymenko et al 2016](#)) on oxidative stress that concluded 93 of 100 studies found oxidative effects.

T-Mobile must warn consumers of the risk, not just their shareholders.

- T- Mobile already states to shareholders in its [2021 10-K](#) that, “We, along with equipment manufacturers and other carriers, are subject to current and potential future lawsuits alleging adverse health effects arising from the use of wireless handsets or from wireless transmission equipment such as cell towers. In addition, the FCC has from time to time gathered data regarding wireless device emissions, and its assessment of the risks associated with using wireless devices may evolve based on its findings. Any of these allegations or changes in risk assessments could result in customers purchasing fewer devices and wireless services, could result in significant legal and regulatory liability, and could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial condition, cash flows and operating results.”

Sincerely,

Devra Davis, PhD, MPH
 President and Founder [Environmental Health Trust](#)

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