

EMF Explained Series

SMALL CELLS AND HEALTH - L1

Small cells are physically small radio base stations that complement the macro network to improve coverage, add capacity, and support new services and user experiences.

There are various types of small cell, with varying range, power level and form factor. The smallest units are for indoor residential use with a similar power to a Wi-Fi modem and are sometimes referred to as femtocells. The largest units are for urban or rural outdoors, and typically consist of a small equipment cabinet and small antennas. They are often located on existing facilities like street lights, power utility poles and buildings.

Extensive research has been conducted into possible health effects of radio frequency technology with independent health experts concluding there are no established health effects when compliant with safety guidelines.

In relation to radio frequency emissions and wireless technology and health, the general conclusion from the World Health Organization (WHO) is;

"Despite extensive research, to date there is no evidence to conclude that exposure to low level electromagnetic fields is harmful to human health"

[WHO - About Electromagnetic Fields – Summary of Health Effects Key Point 6](#)

In relation to wireless networks and health, the conclusion from the WHO is;

"Considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects."

[WHO Base Stations and Wireless Networks Backgrounder](#)

[More information...](#)