

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### 5G Networks and Conspiracy Theories

There is growing concern about 5G technology as a potential cause or contributor to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent conspiracy theories surrounding 5G networks implicate the radiation used in 5G technology in either inadvertently or deliberately weakening immune systems thereby contributing to the global spread of Covid-19. Various conspiracy hypotheses have been rapidly spreading across social media, citing 5G technology as a cause of global COVID-19 pandemic.

The conspiracy hypothesis that 5G technology is a global health crisis gained traction when a Belgian doctor, during an interview in January 2020, suggested that 5G technology is harmful to people's health and postulated a link between 5G with current events. These claims drew attention from some celebrities, including Keri Hilson (singer and actress), Woody Harrelson (actor), Amir Khan (professional boxer), John Cusack (actor and producer), Amanda Holden (actress, singer and presenter) and Teddy Riley (music producer) who all entered the controversy by also implying a link between 5G and COVID-19.

Dr. Joan Donovan, who is the Director of the Technology and Social Change (TaSC) Research Project at Harvard University, said the danger of such conspiracy theories is that people who believe them may not take proper steps to protect themselves from COVID-19.

#### What is 5G technology?

5G stands for "fifth generation" of cellular/mobile network. The "G" in the term 5G means it's a generation of wireless technology. 5G brings new aspects to the table, exponentially faster internet speeds, stable, more secure connection, ability to connect a lot more devices at once, greater coverage, and more responsiveness.

#### 5G and COVID-19 Conspiracy Theories:

There are varying conspiracy theories of the 5G/COVID-19 including:

- While the novel coronavirus is a problem, but it is actually the 5G radiation that enhances COVID-19 disease spread
- The spread of the coronavirus is facilitated by 5G technology
- 5G technology suppresses the immune system or decreases immune response to the virus
- 5G is the source of COVID-19 symptoms
- 5G is a part of a global conspiracy for population control and a "new world order"
- The COVID-19 virus can communicate with 5G radio waves to target victims
- 5G radiation allows virus to penetrate skin
- The timing of COVID-19 correlates with China's roll-out of its 5G service
- Less cases of COVID-19 in African countries because of the lack of 5G service in Africa
- South Africa has the greatest number of COVID-19 cases in Africa and the most 5G devices

It is true that African countries have relatively lesser number of COVID-19 cases compared to some other hard-hit countries which are among those with 5G technology, but conversely COVID-19 has also had a significant impact in other countries where 5G is still not available, e.g. Iran and Turkey which have > 80,000 confirmed cases.

Alexandre Alaphilippe, executive director of the E.U. DisinfoLab, a Brussels-based group tracking virus conspiracy theories said that “Most conspiracies stay online, but this is having real-world impact”, and would be problematic because this disease is a pandemic and people are looking for information and explanations everywhere.

### **Consequences of Conspiracy:**

Conspiracy theories may impact on the general public in many ways including:

- Public health is at risk as people may ignore safety regulations of health officials
- Misinformation threatens the life and well-being of large groups of innocent citizens
- May promote feelings of aggression
- Physical damage to newer technology infrastructure
- Psychological damage to those who believe that they are being manipulated as part of a larger global plan
- Individuals may want to become freedom fighters against an imaginary enemy

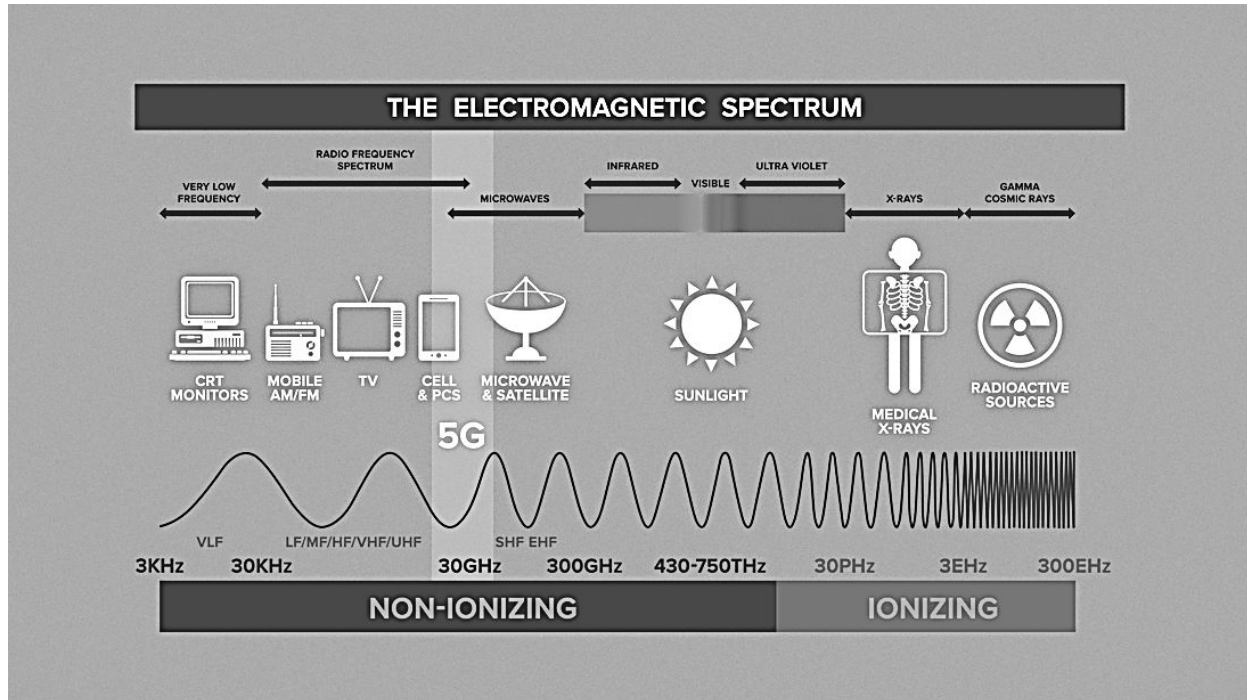
### **Is 5G dangerous for Health?**

There are 2 main types of radiation

- Non-ionizing radiation
- Ionizing radiation

5G towers tend to emit radiofrequency (RF) waves, which is a form of low frequency non-ionizing radiation that is not strong enough to directly affect the structure of molecules or cause damage to the cells (or DNA) within our bodies. Common devices, such as Wi-Fi routers, garage door openers, airport security scanners and walkie-talkies use lower-frequency microwaves.

On the other hand, ionizing radiation, such as X-rays, gamma rays, and ultraviolet (UV) rays can cause damage to DNA within cells. It is advisable to have minimum exposure to ionizing radiation as much as possible, including avoiding unnecessary X-rays and protecting against direct exposure to sunlight for long periods.



In February 2020, The World Health Organization indicated that the current exposure to 5G infrastructures at around 3.5 GHz is similar to that from existing mobile phone base stations and said that “no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies.” 5G technology is an emerging technology, however, so more systematic reviews of the existing research and more well-done studies focusing on health-related endpoints are needed.

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at this time have not found a link between radio frequency signals from cell phones or cell towers and disease and scientific evidence has not linked cell phones with any health problems.

In March of this year, Dr. Eric van Rongen, Chairman of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) said that “the new guidelines provide better and more detailed exposure guidance in particular for the higher frequency range, above 6 GHz, which is of importance to 5G and future technologies using these higher frequencies. The most important thing for people to remember is that 5G technologies will not be able to cause harm when these new guidelines are adhered to.”

### Health Concerns - 5G radiation and COVID-19:

COVID-19 spreads through small droplets released from the nose or mouth of an infected person when they cough, spit, sneeze, talk or exhale. Transmission occurs when the droplets come into contact with the nose, eyes or mouth of a healthy person. The virus does not travel through nor is communicated by radio waves.

5G radiation does not allow viruses to penetrate the skin and there is no evidence 5G radio frequencies cause or exacerbate the spread of the coronavirus. Using a cell phone, laptop, television or other devices will not transmit this virus **but** the virus can spread if an infectious



person speaks into a phone held near their mouth, coughs on, sneezes upon, touches, or licks the device such that enough infectious droplets may land on its surface to make it capable of spreading the virus to others who may come into contact with the device. It is logical to regularly disinfect your devices (e.g., cell phone, TV remote) and not to share mobile devices during a pandemic.

**For more information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) visit [www.educateyourhealth.com](http://www.educateyourhealth.com)**