

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The government of *Frankfurt, Germany* stated that it will not install Wi-Fi in its schools until it is proven harmless. [magdahavas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/German Swiss Wi-Fi in-Schools Warn.pdf](http://magdahavas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/German_Swiss_Wi-Fi_in-Schools_Warn.pdf) p.5.

In 2010, *France* prohibited pre-K through high school students' use of a mobile phone during school. France Environmental Law, Article 183.

In 2010, *municipalities in California, Hawaii, Maine and Maryland* passed resolutions creating moratoriums on "smart" meters. For updates, check emfsafetynetwork.org or stopsmartmeters.org.

In May, 2011, the *Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE)* released a resolution, "Potential Dangers of Electromagnetic Fields and Their Effect on the Environment." It states "for children in general, and particularly in schools and classrooms, give preference to wired Internet connections, and strictly regulate the use of mobile phones by schoolchildren on school premises. //assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link= Documents/AdoptedText.tal.ERES1815.htm.

In January, 2012, the *Santa Cruz, California Board of Supervisors* voted to continue a temporary moratorium on "smart" meter installations in the county, accepting the Public Health Department's report that "smart" meters harm health.

In March, 2012, *four Vermont communities rejected "smart" meters: Bennington, Dorset, Manchester and Sandgate.* www.wakeupoptout.org.

Following a report from *a committee formed by India's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology*, India decided, in July, 2012, to reduce its limit on radiation emitted by antennas *tenfold*. Currently, India's radiation exposure limit for antennas is 9.2 w/m² (watts per square meter). Russia's limit is 0.2 w/m². China's is 0.4 w/m². In the USA, Canada and Japan, the exposure limit is 12 w/m². With the new ruling, India will lower its standard to 0.92 w/m². (Telecom operators claim that reducing antenna power means that mobile devices will have to work harder and thereby, they will increase users' exposure. To provide sufficient coverage, the companies claim that they'll need to install more antennas.) [click here](#).

In November, 2012, the *High Court of Rajasthan*, India's largest state geographically, ordered all cell towers removed from the vicinity of schools, colleges, hospitals and playgrounds because radiation is "hazardous to life." On July 5, 2013, *India's Supreme Court* upheld this decision.

In March, 2013, *Australia's Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency* advised parents to limit children's use of mobile and cordless phones and to keep monitors at least a meter away from babies' beds in order to minimize their exposure to EMR. perthnow.com.au/lifestyle/technology/parents-urged-to-limit-childrens-use-of-mobiles-cordless-phone-under-new-health-warnings/story-fn7bsi10-1226589473040.

In August, 2013, *Mumbai, India's* most populated city, voted to prohibit antennas 1)in the vicinity of schools, colleges, orphanages, child rehabilitation centers and nursing homes; and 2)from being directed toward such buildings. The city also voted to prohibit installation of antennas on residential rooftops without the consent of every person on the top floor as well as 70% of residents below the top floor. The city intends to dismantle 3200 illegal rooftop antennas. prd34.blogspot.com/2013/08/reminder-comments-to-fcc-due-this.html.

2015 On January 29th, France passed a law governing public exposure to electromagnetic fields generated by wireless technology (base stations, mobile phones, tablets ...) was adopted by the Members of the National Assembly [MNAs]; the first taking into account the potential health risks of radio frequencies Protection of especially vulnerable persons .

A section of the Act is devoted to the protection of babies and young children. Wireless devices will be banned in "the spaces dedicated to the care, resting and activities of children under 3 years" , that is to say, nurseries and daycare centers. As for primary schools (pre-school and elementary school) Wi-Fi will have to be disconnected outside "digital educational activities". If a Wi-Fi system is already in place and in any primary school where a new Wi-Fi installation is planned, the school board of directors must be consulted.

Finally, the often-dramatic situation of people suffering from electrohypersensitivity receives consideration.. The government will have to submit a report to Parliament on this issue within a year.

France: National Legislation and the National Agency for Health, Food and Environmental Safety (ANSES).

- [2015 Law](#) passed: WiFi banned from nursery schools, Wifi must be be turned off in elementary schools when not in use, Cellphone advertisements must recommend headsets to reduce exposure to brain.
- [2011 French Cell Phone Statute](#): Merchants must display SAR Radiation levels for different phone models, **all phones must be sold with a headset**, cell phone ads aimed at children younger than 14 are banned and phones made for children under 6 are banned.
- [2013 ANSES](#) Report recommends hands free phones, SAR labeling, and “limiting the population’s exposure to radiofrequencies... especially for children and intensive users, and controlling the overall exposure that results from relay antennas.”
- [The French National Library](#) along with other libraries in Paris, and a number of universities have removed all Wi-Fi networks.
- [Herouville-Saint-Clair](#) has removed all Wi-Fi equipment installed in municipal buildings.

Belgium: [Federal Public Health Regulations](#) on March 2013 due to Health Concerns for Children.

- **Phones designed for children under 7 years old are prohibited from sale.**
- **Total Advertising Ban on cell phones aimed at children younger than 14.**

- Mandatory Radiation SAR levels must be available for consumers at point of sale.
- Warning label on phones: “**Think about your health – use your mobile phone moderately, make your calls wearing an earpiece and choose a set with a lower SAR value.**”
- Recommendations include use of hands-free methods to keep the phone away from the body such as text messaging and not making calls when the signal is weak, such as in elevator/vehicle.
- [Ghent Municipality](#): Wireless internet is banned from spaces that cater to children between 0 and three: preschools and daycares to reduce exposure to microwave radiation.

Spain: [The Parliament of Navarra voted to urge removal of WIFI in schools](#) and to apply the precautionary principle in relation to exposure limits to electromagnetic fields whose boundaries have become “obsolete”.

- The Parliament voted to adopt a resolution which calls to implement the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolution 1815 of 2011, which recommends to “review the scientific basis for the standards of exposure to electromagnetic fields” and “set thresholds for levels of preventive long-term exposure in all indoor areas not exceeding 0.6 volts per meter “.

Australia: In 2013 the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency issued [Fact Sheet 14](#): titled *How to Reduce exposure from mobile phones and other wireless devices*.

- Reduce the risk from WiFi devices by “keeping them at a distance, for example placing the wireless router away from where people spend time”, and “reducing the amount of time you use them”.
- “ARPANSA recommends that parents encourage their children to limit their exposure.”

Italy: The [Italian Supreme Court](#) ruled a man’s brain tumor was caused by his cell phone use in 2012. The National Institute for Workmen’s Compensation must compensate a worker with head tumor due to cell use. **Finland:** The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority issued [recommendations](#) for children which include: favoring text messages, parents limiting duration and amount of calls, the use of hands free devices, avoiding calls in a low reception area and keeping the phone away from the body.

- “With children, we have reason to be especially careful, because there is not enough research on children’s mobile phone use”, according to STUK research director Sisko Salomaa.

Israel: [The Israeli Ministry Of Education](#) has issued guidelines limiting WiFi and [cell phone](#) use in schools.

- Preschool through 2nd grade have banned the use of wireless networks.
- A hard wired direct cable connection is required if the teacher has a computer in the class.

- [The Israeli Supreme Court](#) ordered the Israeli government to reply on ceasing Wifi installations
- In third and fourth grade class internet is restricted to 3 hours per week.
- [The Education Ministry](#) has instructed all schools to perform radiation tests.
- Israel's Minister of Health Rabi Litzman [stated](#) that he supports a ban on Wi-Fi in schools.

Switzerland: [The Governing Council of Thurgau Canton](#) 2008 “The Governing Council recommends for schools to forgo the use of wireless networks when the structural makeup of a given school building allows for a wired network.”

Germany: [The German Federal Ministry](#) for Radiation Protection states, “supplementary precautionary measures such as wired cable alternatives are to be preferred to the WLAN system.”

- [Bavaria](#): The State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs: “For precautionary reasons the Federal Office for Radiation Protection recommends for schools that if a wireless network is used to place its components in suitable locations and to prefer the use of wired network solutions whenever possible.” In 2007 Parliament recommendation to all schools to *not* install wireless LAN networks.
- [Frankfurt](#): “In Frankfurt’s schools there will be no wireless networks in the short or mid term. The Local Education Authority did not wish to conduct a “large scale human experiment,” said Michael Damian, spokesperson of the Head of the School Department Jutta Ebeling.

Austria: “The official advice of the [Public Health Department of the Salzburg Region](#) is not to use WLAN and DECT in Schools or Kindergartens.” -Gerd Oberfeld, MD.

- The Austrian Medical Society has issued [cell phone safety guidelines](#) stating that cell phones should be used for as short of a time as possible and that children under 16 should not use cell phones at all. They also state that wireless LAN leads to high microwave exposure.

United Kingdom: The UK National Health Service offers specific [Recommendations](#) for children and cell phones as “children are thought to be at higher risk of health implications”.

- “Children should only use mobile phones for essential purposes and keep all calls short.”
- For the public they have “recommendations to help lower any potential long-term risks” which include keeping calls short, keep phone away from the body on standby mode, only use it when the reception is strong and use a phone with an external antenna.

[European Environment Agency](#): “All reasonable measures to be taken to reduce exposures to electromagnetic fields, especially radiofrequencies from mobile phones and particularly the exposures to children and young adults. Current exposure limits to be reconsidered.”

India: 2012 The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology issued [EMF guidelines](#) with new Exposure Limits lowered to 1/10 of the ICNIRP level, SAR labeling on phones.

- [Official guidelines](#) for cell phone use include: Headsets, Speakerphones, limiting cell use, increasing distance from devices, and choosing landlines.
- 2013: [Supreme Court of India](#) upheld the High Court of the State of Rajasthan decision to remove all cell towers from the vicinity of schools, hospitals and playgrounds because of radiation “hazardous to life.”
- The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has an [EMF webpage](#)
- [Zilla Parishad orders removal of all cellphone towers near schools citing exposure to “harmful radiation”](#).

Russia: [The Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection](#) has repeatedly [warned](#) about electromagnetic radiation impacts on children and recommended WiFi not be used in schools.

- “Thus, for the first time in the human history, children using mobile telecommunications along with the adult population are included into the health risk group due to the RF EMF exposure.”
- “In children, the amount of so-called stem cells is larger than in adults and the stem cells were shown to be the most sensitive to RF EMF exposure.”
- “It is reasonable to set limits on mobile telecommunications use by children and adolescents, including ban on all types of advertisement of mobile telecommunications for children.”
- [Decision of Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection](#) 2008, “Children and Mobile Phones: The Health of the Following Generations is in Danger”

Canada: Health Canada offers “[Practical Advice](#)” on reducing exposure to wireless radiation.

- Recommendations: 1. Limit the length of cell phone calls, 2. Replace cell phone calls with text, use “hands-free” devices and 3. Encourage children under the age of 18 to limit their cell phone usage
- 2015: [National Bill C-648 Introduced into the House Of Commons](#), “An Act Respecting the Prevention of Potential Health Risks From Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation” would require manufacturers of all wireless devices to place specific health warning labels clearly on packaging, or face daily penalties /fines and/or imprisonment.

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[Resolution 1815](#): In 2011 The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe issued *The Potential Dangers of Electromagnetic Fields and Their Effect on the Environment*.

A call to European governments to “take all reasonable measures” to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields “particularly the exposure to children and young people who seem to be most at risk from head tumours.” The Resolution calls for member states to:

- Implement “information campaigns about the risk of biological effects on the environment and human health, especially targeting children and young people of reproductive age. “
- “Reconsider the scientific basis for the present standards on exposure to electromagnetic fields set by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection, which have serious limitations, and apply ALARA principles, covering both thermal effects and the athermic or biological effects of electromagnetic emissions or radiation.”

“For children in general, and particularly in schools and classrooms, give preference to wired Internet connections, and strictly regulate the use of mobile phones by schoolchildren on school premises.”

United States: Legislation has been introduced at the state and national level. Some Communities have issued proclamations, resolutions and started initiatives to inform the public of wireless health issues.

- **2014 California, Berkeley:** [11/18/2014 The Berkeley City Council adopted a referral to the City Manager](#) asking the City Manager to draft a cell phone “right to know” ordinance. Once this ordinance is enacted, Berkeley will become the first city in the nation to require cell phone retailers to provide those who purchase a new phone an informational fact sheet which informs buyers to read the user manual to learn the cell phone’s minimum separation distance from the body.

- **2014 New York: [Wireless Router Labeling in all Suffolk Public buildings](#)**:12/2014
The Suffolk County Legislature passed legislation to require all county buildings to post notices that wireless routers are in use such as, “Notice: Wireless technology in use.” The resolution, sponsored by Legis. William Spencer (a physician), warns that every wireless device emits radio frequency radiation or microwave radiation. It notes that studies “that have looked at the effects of low-level RFR radiation on human cells and DNA have been inconclusive.”
- **2014 Maryland, Greenbelt: [The Greenbelt Maryland City Council voted unanimously on November 24, 2014](#)** to alert citizens about the fine print warnings and possible health risks of cell phones and wireless devices, to send the FCC Chairman a letter urging the adoption of “radiation standards that will protect human health and safety.” They also voted to oppose cell towers on school grounds.
- 2012 Wyoming: Jackson Hole issued a [Proclamation of Cell Phone Safety](#) which cites concern over long term health effects as well as the increased risk the radiation poses to children.
- 2012 Florida: Pembroke Pines, passed Resolution [3362](#) expressing the City’s “Urgent Concerns” about Wireless Radiation and Health and which encourages citizens to read their manuals and presents information on how to reduce exposure by using a headset or speakerphone. Jimmy Gonzalez, an attorney who had developed brain cancer after heavy cell use, initially petitioned the Commission. [Watch the Video of his powerful testimony here.](#)
- 2010 California, San Francisco: [Cell Phone Radiation \(How to Reduce Exposures\)](#) Webpage launched.
- 2010 California: Burlingame California City Council voted to include cell phone safety [guidelines](#) in their Healthy Living in Burlingame initiative (WHO classification and consumer precautions).
- **2010 Maine, Portland** :Mayor Mavodenes, Jr. declared October “Cell Phone Awareness Month”

Proposed Legislation

- **2014, [City of Berkeley California](#)** City Manager and Community Health Commission initiates action for [warning stickers](#) on cell phone boxes.
- **2012 [The Cell Phone Right to Know Act H.R. 6358](#)** was introduced receiving strong support from many organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics. (AAP Letter here.) This legislation called for labels on mobile devices at point of sale, a comprehensive national research program to study whether exposure to wireless devices causes adverse biological effects directed by NIEHS and the EPA and exposure level regulation.

- 2014 [The Maine LD 1013](#) “**The Wireless Information Act**” passed the State Senate and House but then failed to pass the second vote. The Bill requires manufacturer’s information on radio-frequency exposure be visible on the outside of the cell phone’s product packaging.
- **2014 [Hawaii Senate Bill SB 2571](#)** was introduced calling for a warning label encouraging consumers to follow the enclosed product safety guidelines to reduce exposure to radiation that may be hazardous to their health.
- **The [San Francisco Cell Phone Right to Know Ordinance](#)** was signed in 2011 requiring cell phone retailers to distribute an educational sheet created by the San Francisco Department of Environment that explains radiofrequency emissions from cell phones and how consumers can minimize their exposure. The CTIA sued the city and settled with the City to block implementation of the Ordinance in exchange for a waiver of attorneys’ fees. **The City [Cell Phone Radiation Webpage](#) remains online.**
- [SB 932](#) California, [HM 32](#), New Mexico, [HB 1408](#) Pennsylvania, and [SB 679](#) Oregon.