

The Health Impacts of Cell Phone Radiation in America

NTP Scientists Endorse Precaution: First Federal Officials to Take a Stand on Cell Phone Safety

By [Microwave News](#)

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NTP scientists have decided to follow the science.

In a recent revision to the [information](#) it offers the public on cell phone radiation, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) revealed that its scientists are now taking precautions by spending less time on cell phones and, when on a call, increasing the distance between their heads and the phones.

The NTP released the final report on its \$30 million animal study that showed [“clear evidence”](#) of a link between cell phone radiation and cancer in late 2018. But until now NTP scientists have downplayed the implications of their findings in public statements.

Indeed, [John Bucher](#), the former associate head of the NTP and the leader of the NTP cell phone project, was asked—at each of the three press conferences held at various stages of the release of the NTP results—whether the cancer findings had changed the way he used his cell phone or the advice he gave his family. In the first two instances, he replied no, and in the third—on issuing the final report—he again said no except when “on a conference call for an hour or two.”

That has now changed.

In an email to *Microwave News*, Bucher confirmed that he is following the precautionary steps offered on the NTP website. In a separate exchange, [Michael Wyde](#), who managed the study and continues to run the [follow-up](#) work, wrote that he too is taking these precautions.

They and other NTP scientists are, at present, the only ones working for the U.S. government to publicly endorse precaution to reduce microwave exposure from wireless devices.

CDC Once Endorsed Precaution and Then Backed Away

For a brief time in 2014, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) [endorsed precaution](#). It quickly reversed direction [under pressure](#) from the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, better known by its acronym, [NCRP](#).

Up to now, government scientists have left individuals to make their own decisions to take precautions, favoring the phrase, “if people are concerned about their exposure...” That

conditional used to be on the NTP website but has now been removed.

The FDA [website](#) continues to suggest precautions only for those who are “concerned.”

Here are screenshots of this particular Q&A from the NTP’s FAQs before and after the change.

Before:

Q: Have you changed your cell phone use or what you recommend to your family?

A: NTP scientists have become more aware of my usage, but most haven’t really changed their habits. If people are concerned about their exposure, they can follow the FDA’s tips for reducing exposure to cell phone RFR:

- Reduce the amount of time spent using your cell phone, and
- Use the speaker mode or a headset to place more distance between your head and the cell phone.

After:

Q: Have NTP scientists changed their cell phone use or what they recommend to their families?

A: NTP scientists have become more aware of their usage and follow the FDA’s tips for reducing exposure to cell phone RFR:

- Reduce the amount of time spent using your cell phone, and
- Use the speaker mode or a headset to place more distance between your head and the cell phone.

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