

Proposed Telecommunications Tower Project at Woodgrove High School
May 3, 2022, Public Briefing
Questions & Answers

Q1. Most expert organizations agree that more research is needed to help clarify any negative physical side effects of having base stations/cell towers near schools, especially for any possible long-term effects. What contractual assurances are there that modifications and/or safety feature implementations will take place as more studies are conducted/research takes place regarding the impact of RF [radiofrequency] waves?

A1. *“The consensus of the international scientific community is that radiofrequency energy from wireless devices and networks, including 5G, has not been shown to cause health problems. The evidence includes thousands of peer-reviewed studies conducted over decades and includes input from expert organizations such as the FDA, World Health Organization and American Cancer Society.”* CTIA 8/2021

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sets the national standard for the regulation of electromagnetic field exposure from these facilities for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The standard has been scrutinized extensively for decades. The FCC reaffirmed the standard in December 2019, and no evidence of the need to modify the standard exists. The upper limit exposure anywhere near the base of the proposed facility is far below one percent of the safety standard. Long-term studies have not revealed any link between low levels of RF (radio frequency) exposure and health. If any future studies find a link and are found to be credible by peer review agencies, then the industry and the FCC will make any necessary adjustments, but there is no evidence that any changes need to be made.

Q2. Is this the first cellular tower on Loudoun County Public Schools property?

A2. No, a tower has been constructed at Rock Ridge High School (Loudoun Reserve Drive, Ashburn); a second tower is currently under zoning review by the County, located at Mickie Gordon Memorial Park (Carters Farm Lane, Middleburg).

Q3. Is the tower placement [at Woodgrove High School] a Loudoun County Public Schools or Loudoun County initiative? And what is the benefit for Loudoun County Public Schools?

A3. The proposal for the tower at Woodgrove High School is a collaborative effort and primarily a public safety initiative. The tower will provide an opportunity for other service providers to also benefit from the tower. This tower will benefit Loudoun County Public Safety radio coverage, Loudoun County Public Schools radio coverage (e.g., security, transportation), and other wireless providers (e.g., AT&T and others).

Q4. Does public safety – police and fire/rescue – not currently have access within our schools?

A4. Some schools in western Loudoun have limited coverage (reference the existing service slides in the [May 3 presentation](#)); the proposed tower will improve coverage at/within LCPS facilities.

Q5. Why is the tower proposed for a Loudoun County Public Schools site rather than a County-owned property or further up on the mountain?

A5. Woodgrove High School is on County-owned property leased to Loudoun County Public Schools. In selecting the Woodgrove High School site, surrounding sites within a one- to two-mile radius were also evaluated – including if existing towers could be upgraded. None were identified that would provide the needed radio and cellular coverage improvement. From a land-use perspective, there are limits that do not allow towers to be constructed on residentially zoned properties and/or properties zoned for agriculture. Identified sites also need to comply with setback requirements that are often only accomplished with larger parcels of land.

Q6. How long has 5G been in use? Do any of the Milestone towers in Fairfax have 5G coverage?

A6. 5G mobile service has been deployed within the last three years and continues to be rolled out. Existing towers have upgraded antennae to incorporate 5G service. The exposure at ground level from 5G is comparable to 4G and complies with the applicable FCC standards by a significant margin. Recent testing for towers on school property in Fairfax County (as published on the Fairfax County Public Schools webpage: <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/monopoles-and-fairfax-county-public-schools>) show the radio frequency emissions for the nearly 30 sites to be safely below the FCC exposure limits.