

Discussion Questions for Schools of Public Health / Universities

Below are some questions designed for Public Health students after viewing "Canary in a Gold Mine." Students in other departments may find them interesting. More links and info can be found @ the Canary post-show resource webpage: ptco.org/shows/canary/lobby

Questions for Reflection

- What parallels do you see between EMF exposure and other "emerging" or well known public health threats you have studied?
- In the film, Jonathan references diplomats in Moscow getting sick in the 1970's as an early version of the "Havana Syndrome" which has been in the news the last couple of years(1). If you were in charge of drafting policy around protecting American diplomats, what would some of your considerations be given the current state of the science as well as the economic investment global economies have made in wireless infrastructure?
- Part of the Canary film is about Jonathan and Godeliève's search for the cause of "nonspecific symptoms" like dizziness, fatigue, insomnia and difficulty coordinating limbs. What should a public health expert do when people are getting sick without a clear documented cause of the disease? How and when should the "[precautionary principle](#)" be applied?
- "Canary" dramatizes some of the complex interpersonal dynamics that occur when a family member becomes chronically ill, ie, what is the impact on their family? How does your training in public health prepare you to think about mitigation strategies for the familial and/or community fall-out from chronic environmental illness?
- Another term used to describe EHS or electro-hypersensitivity is "rapid aging syndrome." We are currently witnessing exponential growth in diseases like Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in younger Americans (2). Wireless devices are often touted as important safety nets and companionship substitutes for our aging society (cell phone service when driving, "Alexa", cordless phones, wireless alarm systems, Bluetooth hearing aids, etc.) If you agree that [24x7 wireless exposure creates oxidative stress](#) which in turn promotes cancer and other diseases, how would you approach broaching this topic say in your local nursing home, senior housing development, etc.?

1) <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-diplomats-spies-may-have-been-hit-by-electromagnetic-energy-report-2022-02-02/>

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/12/new-report-assesses-illnesses-among-us-government-personnel-and-their-families-at-overseas-embassies>

2) <https://www.bcbs.com/the-health-of-america/reports/early-onset-dementia-alzheimers-disease-affecting-younger-american-adults>