



Safe Remote Learning Tips

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more students and parents/guardians are learning and working remotely and cyber security is more important than ever. We've compiled a list of best practices to help families to stay safe on their devices while still staying in touch with teachers, peers and colleagues.

- As we adapt to learning, teaching and working from home, it is even more important that we are cyber secure.
- Good security hygiene starts from the peripheral devices such as your home router all the way to personal electronic devices such as computers, mobile phones, tablets etc.
- A compromised home router can open you up to significant consequences such as information or identity theft, malicious sites and advertisements, fraud and more. An unsecured home network can also be used by cybercriminals for illicit purposes such as launching an attack on other networks and systems.

Here are some best practices to ask yourself and be aware about to help foster a safe remote learning environment:

- Is your computer set to automatically install software updates? Is your personal firewall enabled on your computer?
- Have you installed antivirus/anti-malware protection on your device? Have you changed all default passwords and logins on your home router?
- Have you changed the default SSID (also referred to as the "network name") to something unique and not tied to your identity or location?
- Do you have a strong password set on your Wi-Fi router? Recommended to use alpha numeric password with a minimum of 8 characters.
- Is the firmware on your router up to date and with the latest Wi-Fi security settings?
- Have you covered all webcams when not in use?
- Do you make use of parental controls & privacy settings?
- Don't use/Use with caution public Wi-Fi networks since they might not be secured and hence an easy target for attackers.
- Do you follow best practices during video conferencing like keeping the mic and video turned off when not needed? Use chat for only relevant communication and respecting online etiquettes to ensure a safe and productive learning environment.

Additional Resources on safety can be found online at:

<https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en/home>

or contact your home service provider for more information.

