

Internet Safety



Dating online can be risky. The internet is full of different kinds of people, and not all of them have good intentions. This resource will help you deal with the hazards of dating online, as well as teach you how to move offline safely during this pandemic.

Written By



Funded By



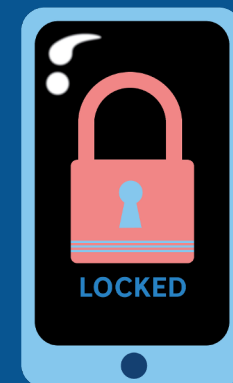
Canadian
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Digital Safety

Dealing with Online Dating Hazards



Dating online offers some great opportunities, but also comes with certain risks. Here are some potential hazards and how to deal with them.

Catfishing

Catfishing is when a person pretends to be someone else online. They are not being honest about who they are or what they want.

LOOK OUT FOR

1. People who avoid virtual and in-person dates.
2. Requests for money

How to Deal

If suspicious, ask to meet via webcam. Do not give money or personal information.

Fraud

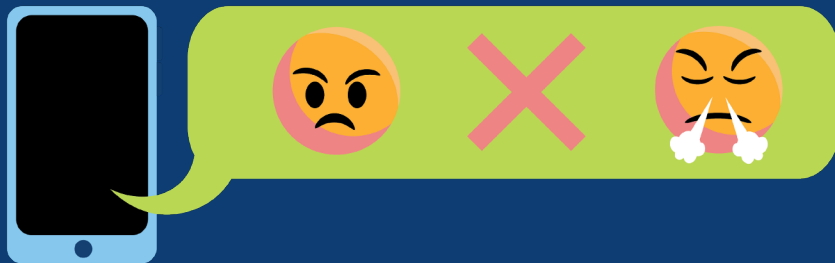
Not everyone is honest online. Some are looking to take advantage of others to get money or sensitive information.

LOOK OUT FOR

People who ask for money, credit card numbers or personal information

How to Deal

Never send money to a stranger. Do not share personal information.



Digital Violence

Dealing with Oppression Online

Not all experiences online will be positive, some may be quite hurtful. You may feel especially hurt if someone online insults you for a trait that you can't change about yourself, like your race or disability. Here are some things you may see or experience dating online:

1

Harassment

People can be mean, hurtful, and even violent online. Verbal harassment can be insults, slurs, or threats.

2

Racist 'Preferences'

You may come across people who have 'racial preferences' about who they date. This is racial bias.

3

Ignorance

Sometimes hurtful things come from a lack of education rather than a desire to hurt someone. But that doesn't make what they say or do any less hurtful.

Safety



Toolbox

Boundaries

Tell them how they are making you feel and what will happen if they don't change their behaviour.

Ghosting

If you're feeling unsafe, it is ok to stop responding to them. Don't put yourself at risk just to be polite!

Find Support

Tell someone you trust. You shouldn't have to deal with this alone!

Report It

Every app has safety features and options to report a user. Feel free to use these if you're feeling unsafe.

Content Warning

The next page will feature
online violence and discuss
ableism and racism.

Please feel free to skip this
section if you need to.

Dealing with Oppression Online

Responding to difficult or hurtful things online can be hard. Here are some situations you may experience and how to handle them!

Ignorance

You have been dating a person named Kamal for a few weeks and are really happy! You have been going on a lot of virtual dates and are talking every day. You decide to share that you have Autism Spectrum Disorder with them.

Kamal says that it doesn't bother them. They start laughing and tell you that you "don't act like you're Autistic anyway!"

I Feel...

Confused

Ask For Clarification
"What did you mean by that?"

Hurt

Share Your Feelings
"That really hurt my feelings."

Brave

Educate Them
"There's more than one way to be Autistic."

Racist 'Preferences'

Some people you meet online may have racial 'preferences' for the people they date. Racial preferences are a form of racial bias. This often looks like emojis and slang in dating profiles. Here are some examples to be aware of:

"Only



"

"Looking for



"

"No Chocolate or Spice"

WARNING!
THIS PERSON IS
RACIST. DO
NOT DATE!

Moving Offline



How to Meet Safely

While a lot of relationships during this pandemic are built online, hopefully there will be opportunities to meet in person. Here are ways to do so safely!

Set Boundaries

Discuss COVID-19 risks.
Negotiate using masks, physical distancing, and date locations.
Consider the needs of your household.
Discuss what 'bubbling' up would look like.

What is a Social Bubble?

The people who you socialize with, without wearing a mask.

What kind of exposure risks do you live with?

What safety measures do you need?

I wanna see you, why don't you come over? I'm not sick.

I don't feel comfortable breaking my bubble. How about a virtual date?

Manipulation

Some people may disrespect your boundaries, or ask you to violate social distancing for a date.

Repeat your boundaries and cut off contact if necessary.

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

Please consult your local public health rules and guidelines before meeting in-person.

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