

For immediate release

Keeping your kids safe online while we isolate at home

Vancouver, B.C. (April 14, 2020): Between the online learning BC schools have started - and the extra time children and teens have for social media and gaming - your kids are probably staring at screens a lot more.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers suggests you consider the following, to make sure they stay safe while online and don't become cyber victims. Anonymous tips about cyberbullying or any other crime may be provided through Crime Stoppers' downloadable "P3" app for Apple and Android phones, by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-855-448-8477 (new number) or 1-800-222-8477, online at solvecrime.ca, or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#).

Police define cyberbullying as the use of the internet, social networking sites, websites, email, text messaging and instant messaging to repeatedly intimidate or harass others. Unlike traditional bullying, it can follow a victim everywhere 24 hours a day. Examples:

- Sending mean or threatening emails or text/instant messages.
- Posting embarrassing photos of someone online.
- Creating a website to make fun of others.
- Pretending to be someone by using their name.
- Tricking someone into revealing personal or embarrassing information and sending it to others.

If you think your **child is a victim of bullying**:

- Talk to them - let them know they can trust you and shouldn't deal with bullying alone.
- Help them:
 - document the bullying;
 - report unwanted text messages to their telephone service provider, or cyberbullying to social media sites or apps;
 - report the bullying to school administrators; and
 - report criminal offences, such as threats, assaults, harassment and sexual exploitation to the local police detachment.

Additional free advice regarding the use of social media by children and teens is available from TELUS' free digital literacy education program called [TELUS Wise](#). It notes age alone is no predictor of whether someone will do something like send a "sext".

Adults can also be cyberbullying victims and in fact, are often unable to avoid the internet altogether due to work and other responsibilities.

Tips for everyone include making your account private so you can approve anyone who wants to follow you and see your posts; not posting photos of documents that reveal name, address, or phone number; and avoiding the use of geofilters that reveal your location to strangers.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

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Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards.

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