K-12 Cyber Awareness Calendar
Be Cyber-Aware!
School Year 2021-22

Ontario

2021

September Cyber awareness for back to school	**October** K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (CAM)	**November** Netiquette: Online manners	**December** Don't be a victim of cyber scams!

2022

January Think before you click...	**February** Stranger DANGER!	**March** Digital space spring cleaning	**April** Your cyber self-defence
May Lock your door; lock your data	**June** Social media	**July** Game on! Safely!	**August** Connected things

Ontario

September 2021

Cyber awareness for back to school

Back to school is an exciting time for students, parents, teachers and staff. Unfortunately, it is also an exciting time for hackers, identity thieves, and other unscrupulous individuals who look to take advantage of this busy time of year. Parents: It is important to **be vigilant of back to school scams** and September is a perfect time to **remind kids of important ways to stay safe online** as they return to school.

Week 1: Sept 1 – 4

- **Week 1 Tips:** Do a Cyber Safe Checkup and find out about ways to help kids be safer. Secure your children's devices, accounts and connections. If buying a new device - secure it!

Week 2: Sept 5 – 11

- **Week 2 Tips:** Learn of ways to talk to children about being cyber aware. Here's a handy and simple cyber security checklist!

Week 3: Sept 12 – 18

- **Week 3 Tip:** Protect accounts and passwords of school-provided learning platform-s and education tools. If learning remotely, remember safe video conferencing tips as a participant or an educator.

Week 4: Sept 19 - 25

- **Week 4 Tips:** Become familiar with the school board's policies on acceptable use and online behaviour. Lookout for any important cyber messages from the school or board.

Week 5: Sept 26 – 30

- **Week 5 Tips:** Remind children about phishing risks, oversharing information and overusing technology. Test their safety knowledge. Learn what to do about a suspicious-looking message.

October 2021

K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (CAM)

October is internationally recognized as Cyber Security Awareness Month (CSAM). Our campaign is tailored for K-12 education with a focus on cyber security, online safety and online privacy. The theme for this year is **"Cyber awareness as self-care"** with additional weekly themes. Adopting safe and secure habits online is caring for your online presence and digital footprint.

Week 1: Oct 3 – 9

- **Week 1 Theme:** Show your devices and accounts some love.

Week 2: Oct 10 – 16

- **Week 2 Theme:** Pay attention to your home network and Wi-Fi connections.

Week 3: Oct 17 – 24

- **Week 3 Theme:** Care for your personal information - it is valuable!

Week 4: Oct 24 – 30

- **Week 4 Theme:** Be mindful of your online presence and digital footprint.

Ontario

November 2021

Netiquette: Online manners

Netiquette is a combination of the words **net (internet)** and **etiquette** and is a set of rules for acceptable online behaviour. We need these rules to know how to communicate respectfully online and how to use internet in productive, positive, and socially responsible ways. The **Golden Rule of netiquette** is to treat others online as you would want to be treated.

Week 1: Nov 1 – 6

- **Week 1 Tips:** Share mindfully and be respectful. If you wouldn't say it face to face, don't say it online either. Avoid posting disrespectful, inflammatory or offensive messages online.

Week 2: Nov 7 - 13

- **Week 2 Tips:** Don't post or share (even privately) inappropriate material – everything you post or share online, stays online… forever… **even if you think you've deleted it.** Know the law – Non-consensual sharing of intimate images is never ok! If you are victim, there are steps you can take.

Week 3: Nov 14 - 20

- **Week 3 Tips:** Bullying and harassment can happen online and can be especially harmful as it is easier to carry-out, it's more visible and it follows the victim. Learn more about cyberbullying during bullying awareness and prevention week.

Week 4: Nov 21 - 27

- **Week 4 Tips:** Be careful with your tone. Using ALL CAPS, exclamations, and humour could be interpreted incorrectly as impolite or rude. And yes, grammar and spelling do matter.

Week 5: Nov 28 - 31

- **Week 5 Tips:** Post things that will inspire and motivate others in a positive way. Don't be a purveyor of misinformation and fake news. Fact-check before sharing or re-posting.

Ontario

December 2021

Don't be a victim of cyber scams!

Online shopping fraud is the most common type of property crime. Review your purchases before paying and look for red flags: Is the price too low? No PayPal payment option? No refund terms or reviews?

Week 1: Dec 1 – 4

- **Week 1 Tips:** If the deal looks too good to be true, it likely is. [Avoid becoming a victim of an online shopping scam.](#)

Week 2: Dec 5 – 11

- **Week 2 Tips:** Personal information on social media is an easy grab for online scammers to use and buy things without your permission – [know and control what your profile says and displays](#).

Week 3: Dec 12 – 18

- **Week 3 Tips:** Purchasing online software? Always check what you try to download to help ensure you aren't directed to a malicious site or software. [Learn of ways to download safely.](#)

Week 4: Dec 19 – 25

- **Week 4 Tips:** Are you logging onto a legitimate website or responding to a legitimate email? Look for [signs of spoofing](#), don't be tricked! Use secure websites with HTTP**S** instead of HTTP.

Week 5: Dec 26 – 31

- **Week 5 Tips:** Cyber criminals always look for different/new ways to scam unsuspecting individuals. Here are some of [cyber criminals' favourite tactics](#) and learn to [slam the scam](#).

Ontario

January 2022

Think before you click

Cyber criminals often use email addresses that look okay, current topics, and promises of prizes or free things to get us to click on malicious (bad) links. These criminals count on catching people off-guard. Be careful and stop to think about the messages you receive before you click.

Week 1: Jan 2 – 8

- **Week 1 Tips:** Don't be tricked into sharing your confidential information like passwords or downloading malicious (bad) software.

Week 2: Jan 9 – 15

- **Week 2 Tips:** Learn about phishing, don't get hooked. Before providing any information, try to verify through a different communication channel that the sender is who they say they are.

Week 3: Jan 16 – 22

- **Week 3 Tips:** Consider installing anti-virus and anti-malware software that scan files for certain patterns or signatures of known viruses and malicious software. Protect yourself!

Week 4: Jan 23 – 29

- **Week 4 Tips:** Beware of ransomware that can take control of your device and lock your access or files.

Ontario

February 2022

Stranger DANGER!

Beware the unknown online personas, proceed with caution and be very careful about the personal information you reveal. Online predators can lie about everything. Before engaging with new "friends" online ask yourself: is this person really a stranger?

Week 1: Feb 1 – 5

- **Week 1 Tips:** Beware of online predators. They build trust by sending many messages, asking to keep their conversations a secret, and manipulating to get personal information. Learn about The Trap!

Week 2: Feb 6 – 12

- **Week 2 Tips:** Remember to check friend requests and group invites before accepting them. Think about whether you have moved a "new friend" to "non-stranger" status too quickly.

Week 3: Feb 13 – 19

- **Week 3 Tips:** Use safety controls to customize your family's cyber experience, block inappropriate content and set time limits. Set ground rules, talk about the risks and ways to deal with them.

Week 4: Feb 20 – 26

- **Week 4 Tips:** Be aware of online luring and grooming risks, and beware of cappers. A child who is being victimized may have changes in behaviour at home and at school, know the signs. Learn more about human trafficking.

Ontario

March 2022

Digital space spring cleaning

Spring has sprung! It's time for a digital cleanup. – Did you know that digital spaces need cleaning just like our homes? Digital clutter can slow down devices and services you use. Keeping old files, online accounts, and programs/apps can put your devices and information at risk. To keep your devices and data safe and secure year-round, take some time to spring clean your digital space.

Week 1: Mar 1 – 5

- **Week 1 Tips:** Delete unused and outdated apps/programs on your devices. This frees up space and prevents old information from being shared. Some outdated apps may also become unsecure.

Week 2: Mar 6 – 12

- **Week 2 Tips:** Review your accounts and close/delete the ones you don't use. This reduces the risk of exposing your info (email, usernames, passwords, etc.) in the event of a data breach.

Week 3: Mar 13 – 19

- **Week 3 Tips:** Clear your web browser cache and cookies. This improves web browser performance and increases your online privacy.

Week 4: Mar 20 – 26

- **Week 4 Tips:** Back-up and archive your files regularly. This will ensure your data will always be available in the event of device failure or compromise. Delete files no longer needed.

Week 5: Mar 27 – 31

- **Week 5 Tips:** Update your system and software. Having the latest updates keeps your devices and information secure. Recycling your device? Know what to do.

Ontario

April 2022

Your digital self-defence

Details such as birthdates, phone numbers, bank account, education, sexuality, religious affiliations, email addresses and passwords are regularly revealed online leaving internet users vulnerable to social engineering and possibly cybercrime. Digital self-defence is about digital self-empowerment. Learn digital strategies to protect your personal information, image, and reputation online.

Week 1: Apr 3 – 9

- **Week 1 Tips:** Review the privacy/security settings on your devices and protect personal information on mobile apps – they may be sending data and using your microphone to 'listen' for information.

Week 2: Apr 10 – 16

- **Week 2 Tips:** Personal information you post online can put you and your loved ones at increased risk of cybercrime and harassment. Travel plans and photos can tell thieves that you are away!

Week 3: Apr 17 – 23

- **Week 3 Tips:** You may be unknowingly sharing personal information through social media games, quizzes and through shareable, interactive posts and pictures. Fight the urge and peer pressure!

Week 4: Apr 24 – 30

- **Week 4 Tips:** Protect your reputation. Data created through your activities and communication online make up your digital footprint. That includes social media "likes" and comments.

Ontario

May 2022

Lock your door; lock your data

You wouldn't leave your house without locking your door - the same applies to your devices, applications, and accounts. Passwords or passphrases provide the first line of defense against intruders and cyber criminals. A few key password best practices will help protect your devices, accounts, and personal information. Take the time, the extra effort is worth it!

Week 1: May 1 - 7

- **Week 1 Tips:** Always <u>use a unique strong password or passphrase</u> for every account and device. Do not use personal information (e.g. name, age, date of birth, child's name, pet's name).

Week 2: May 8 - 14

- **Week 2 Tips:** <u>Verify the strength of all your passwords</u>. <u>Check whether your passwords have been previously exposed in a data breach.</u> If yes, change them immediately!

Week 3: May 13 - 21

- **Week 3 Tips:** <u>Use a password manager</u> to keep track of login information. Never allow your web browser to save your passwords. Turn off the built-in password manager in your browser.

Week 4: May 22 - 28

- **Week 4 Tips:** Check if <u>multi-factor authentication (MFA)</u> is available on your devices and accounts. If yes, set it up for enhanced security. Remember not to share your login and password details.

Ontario

June 2022

Social media

Using social media helps you connect with your friends and family, share interest with others or get the latest news. **While social media can be fun, it can be risky as well!** Sharing your personal information can make you an easy target for scammers, identity thieves and online predators. That's why you should always **be cautious** what you post online!

Week 1: Jun 1 – 4

- **Week 1 Tips:** Are your online friends who they say they are? [Be selective, be cautious, be a sleuth!](#) Always be watchful about the people you connect with. Block unfriendly connections.

Week 2: Jun 5 – 11

- **Week 2 Tips:** What are your [privacy settings](#) on your devices and installed social media applications? Privatize your social life by setting privacy permissions.

Week 3: Jun 12 – 18

- **Week 3 Tips:** Don't share everything on social media, especially your personal information.

Week 4: Jun 19 – 25

- **Week 4 Tips:** Don't use location services especially when posting online. Refrain from giving too much information about activities, it might provide your exact location.

Week 5: Jun 26 – 30

- **Week 5 Tips:** Be judicious about what you post online. You are what you post, and postings are forever! So be considerate and get consent before you post about others.

Ontario

July 2022

Game on! Safely!

Gaming is fun for both kids and adults! It can be even more fun when you play wisely, safely and know when to stop. Nowadays, most games are online or connected to the internet. This leaves gamers vulnerable to attacks from cyber criminals or harassment from malicious individuals. [Learn how to keep your online gaming experience safe and enjoyable](#).

Week 1: Jul 3 – 9

- **Week 1 Tips:** Review gaming accounts to configure privacy and security settings to limit over-sharing of information. Set parental controls to establish parameters for kids.

Week 2: Jul 10 – 16

- **Week 2 Tips:** Play in disguise, use an avatar and a safe game name. Don't use your photo, first or last name or any other personal details.

Week 3: Jul 17 – 23

- **Week 3 Tips:** Think about who you are playing with; people may not be honest about who they are. Block, report and mute people who troll, bully or harass you in games.

Week 4: Jul 24 – 30

- **Week 4 Tips:** Be careful about in-game purchases and loot boxes. Don't download software from strangers, such as cheat mods or automation scripts and programs, they may contain malware.

Ontario

August 2022

Connected things

Smart watches, smart speakers, smart doorbells, home security systems, smart cameras, smart appliances, even smart toilets (smirk) make our lives more convenient… Smart devices can potentially be used by cyber criminals if left unsecured. [Learn how to secure these devices against cyber threats](#).

Week 1: Aug 1 – 6

- **Week 1 Tip:** Change default usernames and passwords! [Keep your smart devices on a separate network.](#)

Week 2: Aug 7 – 13

- **Week 2 Tip:** [Keep the software on your smart devices up to date.](#) Apply updates automatically or make sure to check and update regularly.

Week 3: Aug 14 – 20

- **Week 3 Tip:** Learn what personal information a smart device is collecting, and the privacy controls it offers, before buying it.

Week 4: Aug 21 – 27

- **Week 4 Tip:** Do your research before buying a smart toy – is it collecting and sharing identifying information? Can the toy and information it gathers be effectively secured?

Week 5: Aug 28 – 31

- **Week 5 Tip:** Have a home digital assistant? [Adjust its privacy settings](#). Using a wearable device such as a fitness tracker or smart watch? [Know the risks to privacy.](#)

Ontario

Summary of Cyber Resources Referenced

September 2021 – Cyber protection for back to school

- Week 1:
    - [Take the Get Cyber Safe Checkup](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [A parent's guide to cyber safe back-to-school shopping](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [Secure your devices](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [Secure your accounts](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [Secure your connections](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [New device checklist](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 2:
    - [Cyber security for kids: How parents can talk with their children](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [Cyber security checklist](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 3:
    - [Tips for video conferencing for staff and teachers](#) – *ECNO.org and Ministry of Education in collaboration with members from OASBO ICT and CCTIC*
    - [Tips for video conferencing for participants (students and parents)](#) - *ECNO.org and Ministry of Education in collaboration with members from OASBO ICT and CCTIC*
- Week 4: [Cyber security checklist](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 5:
    - [Video: Phishing: Don't take the bait!](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [Real examples of fake emails](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
    - [Guess What!?! – Zoe & Molly Online (zoeandmolly.ca)](#) – *Canadian Centre for Child Protection*
    - [What to do about a suspicious-looking message](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*

October 2021 – K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (CAM)

- [K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (CAM) 2021 - ECNO](#)
- Week 1: [K-12 CAM 2021 – Week 1](#) – *ecno.org*
- Week 2: [K-12 CAM 2021 – Week 2](#) – *ecno.org*
- Week 3: [K-12 CAM 2021 – Week 3](#) – *ecno.org*
- Week 4: [K-12 CAM 2021 – Week 4](#) – *ecno.org*

November 2021 – Netiquette: Online Manners

- Week 3:
  - Cyberbullying: How to stay safe – *Kids Help Phone*
  - Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – *Government of Ontario*
- Week 5: Break the fake - *MediaSmarts*

December 2021 – Don't be a victim of cyber scams!

- Week 1: How to avoid becoming the victim of an online shopping scam – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 2: Social media – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 3: How you can stay cyber secure when downloading and using apps – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 4: Spoofing: An introduction – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 5:
  - A brief overview of cyber criminals' favourite tactics – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
  - Slam the scam – Protect yourself against fraud – *Government of Canada*

January 2022 – Think before you click

- Week 1: Social engineering: how cyber scams trick us – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 2: What is phishing? – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 3:
  - Malware infographic detected! – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
  - What is malware: How to protect yourself – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 4:
  - Video: Malware and ransomware – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
  - Ransomware 101: How to stay cyber secure – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*

February 2022 – Stranger DANGER!

- Week 4:
  - Online Luring – *cybertip.ca*
  - Grooming – *cybertip.ca*
  - Hard Truth: What are cappers, and the real online risk your kids face right now – *ProtectKidsOnline.ca*
  - What are signs that someone is being sex trafficked or sexually exploited? – *White Ribbon Canada*
  - Learn about human trafficking | Ontario.ca – *Government of Ontario*

March 2022 – Digital space spring cleaning

- [Your devices could use a good SCRUB](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 2: [Just Delete Me | A directory of direct links to delete your account from web services](#) - *backgroundchecks.org*
- Week 3: [Web browser tips](#) – *ecno.org*
- Week 4:
  - [Does your data have a backup plan?](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 5:
  - [System updates](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
  - [Video: Software updates](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
  - [Recycling Your Device?](#) – *Recyclemycell.ca*

April 2022 – Your digital self-defence

- Week 1:
  - [Protecting personal information on your mobile devices](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*
  - [Tips for protecting your personal information when downloading and using mobile apps](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*

May 2022 – Lock your door, Lock your data

- Week 1: [Passphrases, passwords and PINs](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 2:
  - [How Secure Is My Password?](#)
  - [Have I Been Pwned?](#)
- Week 3: [Password managers](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 4: [Why multi-factor authentication is an essential part of cyber security](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*

June 2022 – Social Media

- Week 1: [Are your online friends who they say they are?](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*
- Week 2: [Tips for using privacy settings – Social media and other online services](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*

July 2022 – Game on! Safely!

- [Gaming systems](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*

August 2022 – Connected Things

- [How to secure your smart devices against cyber threats this summer](#) – *Get Cyber Safe, Government of Canada*
- Week 1: [Smart devices and your privacy – Secure the network](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*
- Week 2: [Smart devices and your privacy – Security isn't a one-time affair](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*
- Week 5:
  - [Tips for using privacy settings – Home digital assistants](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*
  - [Wearable devices and your privacy](#) - *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada*

Summary of Annual Cyber Events

- October 2021 – Cyber Security Awareness Month (CSAM) and K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (CAM)
- October 25th to 30th, 2021 - [Media Literacy Week](#)
- November 22nd to 26th, 2021 – [Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week](#)
- January 28th, 2022 – [Data Privacy Day](#)
- February 8th, 2022 – [Safer Internet Day](#)
- March 2022 – [Fraud Prevention Month](#)
- March 20th, 2022 – [Digital Cleanup Day](#)
- March 31st, 2022 - [World Backup Day](#)
- June 17th, 2022 – [Stop Cyberbullying in Ontario Day](#)

Ontario