

TELUS WISE®

Popular Social Media Apps: Overviews and Safety Tips



Instagram

Instagram is a free photo and video sharing app for Apple iOS, Android and Windows Phones. Users upload content to share with their friends/followers – who in return can like or comment on the content. Users can also view and comment on other people’s posts. Many enjoy Instagram for its fun filters and ability to add captions.

Tips:

- Make your account private to control who sees your posts. This allows you to approve anyone who wants to follow you. Be aware of comments and people that seem suspicious or strangers that comment on your specific location. You can block them and even report inappropriate behaviour directly within the app.
- Avoid excessive “check-ins”. Checking into a location or “adding a location” to your posts lets everyone know what your regular schedule looks like and where you spend your time.
- Never post personal information. Sure, it may be tempting to upload a photo of your first driver’s license or University acceptance letter but some documents can contain your name, address, and sometimes even your phone number. Think twice before posting.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Snapchat

Snapchat is another free photo and video sharing app, only the user can put a time limit on their content before it ‘disappears’. Users can also message with friends and make video calls. Many enjoy using Snapchat for its fun lenses which allow you to add special effects to your face (e.g. bunny ears). Users can also add filters, sounds, and stickers to their content.

Tips:

- Manage your privacy settings so you can only send and receive content from users on your friends list (“My friends” only setting).
- Never add anyone you don’t know personally on Snapchat. Unless turned off, this social platform provides live updates of where you are and who you are with.
- Don’t use geofilters that reveal your location, particularly those that indicate your specific neighbourhood.
- Keep in mind that snaps shared with others can be saved if viewers choose to take a screenshot or take a picture of their screen with another device or camera.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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Facebook

Facebook is a social networking site that lets you easily connect and stay in touch with family and friends. You can post status updates, articles, links, pictures and videos and share them with your friends for their reactions and comments. You can also see what your friends and others you follow, including celebrities and businesses, are posting/sharing.

Tips:

- Manage privacy settings to keep your profile and posts private.
- Only add or accept requests from people you know and trust; you can block users who you do not want to be able to contact you. Facebook also lets you report abuse, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour directly from the app.
- Always check tagged photos and manage settings so you can approve a photo you're tagged in. Business social media accounts are public, so if you've been at a location and are tagged in one of their photos, everyone will be able to see it.
- The 'Nearby Friends' feature tells you where your friends are. If you don't want to have your entire friends list aware of your whereabouts open the Facebook app, tap on more from the menu and tap on the settings icon where you can then turn the feature off.
- 'Check-in's' display your location to your entire Facebook audience. Checking-in at restaurants, movies or sporting venues can reveal your exact location to people you may not know.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

YouTube

YouTube is a video-sharing platform and provides an endless array of content that can keep users entertained for hours. You don't have to register or log-in to use the app, however you do need to create an account and YouTube channel if you wish to upload your own videos. Like other social media apps, users can comment on the content they consume.

Tips:

- Consider creating a family Google account that is shared by the whole family for full visibility into what videos are being viewed and posted.
- Upload videos you do not wish to share broadly as Private (only people you allow can view the video) or Unlisted (only people you send a specific link to can view the video).
- Turn on restricted mode on your computers and devices so that the content is filtered – but it may not be perfect, so it's always best to view YouTube videos alongside your child.
- Disable comments or moderate them so you have control over what appears on your YouTube channel.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



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We know it can be hard to keep up with all the apps out there, so don't be afraid to ask your kids to tell you about the apps they use and why they enjoy them. You may also wish to consider downloading and using the apps yourself to become more familiar with them.

And last but not least – relevant to all of the above apps and any others you or your family choose to use - make sure you use a strong and unique password and don't share passwords with anyone (except for your parent or guardian)! If someone has your password, you run the risk of them impersonating you using your credentials/accounts and damaging your online reputation.

Get more Internet and Smartphone safety tips at [telus.com/wise](https://www.telus.com/wise).

