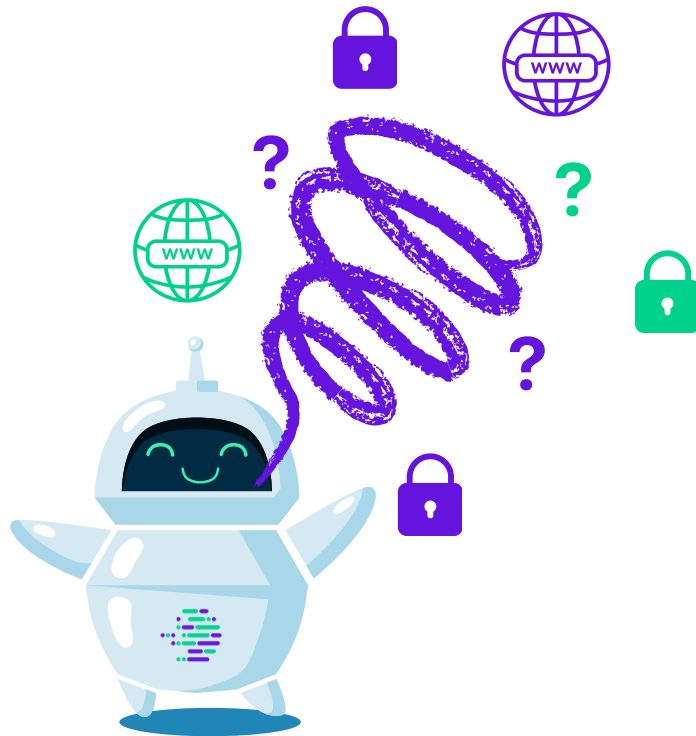




Browsing the internet - What is a secure site?



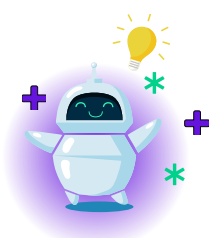
Unsure whether the website you're viewing is secure?
Don't worry! You're in good hands

1 What will happen if i try and visit an unsafe website?

The first step to avoiding fake websites is to know what you'll see if you ever unintentionally land on an unsafe site. Most web browsers are designed to make finding your way around the internet easier and safer.

If you visit a site with known safety issues, your internet browser will usually tell you by presenting a fullscreen warning about the dangers of continuing to that page.

These warnings might say “your connection is not private” or that you’re heading toward a suspicious website. If you see one of these warnings, close the web browser or click “back to safety” to avoid visiting an unsafe website.



Top Tip - Most web browsers have built in safety features to warn you about unsafe websites!



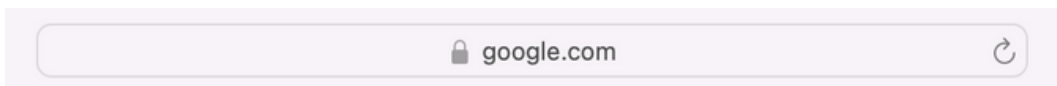
2 Look for a safety certificate

At the top of your web browser there will be a web address (URL). For example if you are looking at Google you will see <https://www.google.com> - This is the web address.

There are some things to look out for which will tell you whether the website you're visiting is secure. Lets use Google as an example again...

At the beginning of the web address you will notice that it begins with 'https' the 's' at the end of the http stands for "secure".

Some times you will see a padlock on the far left of the web address, it will look like this:



This padlock shows that there is a secure connection between you and the website that you are visiting.

3 The website has a safety certificate, but I am still unsure! What can I do?

You can double-check a website using a site checker like [Google's Safe Browsing site status page](#).

If you copy and paste the web address into the checker, it will tell you whether the website is safe or not.

4 Are there any other tips and tricks I should know?

If you have done the above checks and still don't feel comfortable, another good thing to check is the website reviews. If you put into Google the website's name followed by 'reviews' you will be able to see what other internet users think about that website.

When looking at reviews, pay close attention to:

- Consistently bad reviews
- Mentions of poor customer service
- Too many overly positive reviews that sound the same (this could indicate that the reviews aren't real)



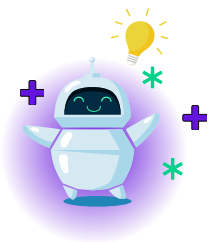
Reviews provide a pretty good picture of whether or not a website is safe, because people usually share their bad experiences.

Search for contact information:

Contact information on its own isn't a guarantee that a site is safe, but it is a signal that there is a person or a team of people who are ready to assist you if you have questions.

If a site doesn't have obvious contact information, it might be an oversight (especially if it's a newer site), or it could mean that whoever owns the website does not have good intentions and doesn't want people contacting them.

If you do not feel comfortable with the website, steer clear of it and do NOT provide any personal or financial information.



Top Tip - Check out our guide on antivirus as most of these antivirus providers will include a website checker as standard!

Don't forget that Digital Health Devon have a YouTube channel that features 'how to' guides if you're ever unsure.