



Staying safe using Houseparty

What is it?

House party is a Live Stream video call app whereby up to eight users can connect on group video and audio. They can chat, take part in quizzes and play games. Thousands of people have downloaded the app as a way of communicating with each other whilst social distancing and it has become one of the most popular apps during the COVID-19 lockdown.



Stranger danger?

A user who is a friend of one member of the group can join the party without needing to be accepted or confirmed by the users. Just like a real house party – people can jump in and out of rooms and anyone can get involved in young people's conversations. Any person of any age can join the chat and they may pretend to be someone they are not, including being a younger age, so it's important to be vigilant.



Safe steps to take

Lock your room! Users can lock a chat so that access is only granted to those specifically invited. However, this is not the default setting and must be deliberately enabled. If a child is invited to someone else's chat, they have no control over who else their friend invites, so it's important to have open conversations with children and young people, Speak about the behavior in live situations and explain that it can be recorded and shared.

Reporting concerns

If you think a child could be in immediate danger **tell your local police** at once or dial **999**.

Report to **Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP)**

www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Report any child abuse images to **The Internet Watch Foundation**

www.iwf.org.uk



To find out more visit

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/online-exploitation-resources>