Meeting an Online Date for the First Time

1) **Meet in a public place:** There’s safety in numbers. Schedule your first date in a restaurant or coffee shop so there are other people around if the date does not go as expected. Never meet dates at their home, hotel or in any other private venue.

2) **Tell a friend or family member where you are going and make sure to bring a cellphone:** Give details about where you’re meeting to someone you trust, and provide as many details as you have about the person you are meeting. You can also have someone check in with you by calling your cellphone at a specific time so you can let them know all is well; you could also use the call as an opportunity to end the date.

3) **Know your limits:** If you choose to drink alcohol, drink responsibly. Know your limits and stick to them. Protect your beverages and do not leave them unattended. Remember that alcohol and drugs compromise your ability (and your partner’s) to make responsible decisions.

4) **Secluded and private places are risky:** There are risks in going to a secluded or private location with someone you don’t know. If you choose to go to a date’s home or hotel on a first date, know your sexual limits and communicate them clearly in advance. Know where you are and how you would get home. Tell a friend where you are going. Let your date know you are doing this. Remember that it is always safer to get to know someone better before you let them know where you live.