

# Home WiFi Network Security

*Last updated May 12, 2020*

When working remotely, the security of your home WiFi network is very important. A poorly secured network is vulnerable to attackers and could put you and Seattle Children's at risk.

Since home routers can vary, you may need to search online for instructions that apply to your specific router. Standard instructions follow below.

## Change the admin password

Your home router came with a default admin password. This is not the same as the password you use to connect to WiFi.

Find the label on your router. Sometimes it will list the default IP address, administrator name and password. If not, search online for "change <Router Brand> <Model Number> password" to find instructions for your specific router.

- In the address bar of a web browser, enter the default IP address. If the IP address wasn't listed on the label, you can find it on your computer.
  - Go to your computer's settings and select Network
  - Look for the Router IP (it will look something like this 123.456.7.8)
- In the administration area, change the admin password (longer is better).

## Disable remote administration

While still at your home router's online settings, look for a box or button for remote administration. Select Disable, or uncheck the Enable box. This will ensure that others from outside your home are not able to change your settings.

## Update router firmware

Also while at your home router's online settings, check that your firmware is up-to-date. Updates can help eliminate known cybersecurity vulnerabilities and improve performance. If available, select automatic updates so you are always current.

Note that if you get your internet connection through a cable company, your firmware version is controlled by them, even if you have purchased your own router. If this is the case, you won't be able to update the firmware version.

## Configure your WiFi security settings

There are three key settings to check: SSID, encryption method and WiFi password. Locate "Wireless Setup" in your router's online settings.

- Change the default SSID to the name of your choice
- Check encryption level (should be WPA2 with AES security setting selected)
- Disable WPS, or Enable WPS but Disable WPS PIN Methods
- Set or change your WiFi password (don't use your admin password) using a complex pass phrase that won't be easy to guess