

COVID-19 ONLINE SAFETY and CYBER SECURITY

Malicious cyber actors could take advantage of public concern surrounding COVID-19 by conducting phishing attacks and disinformation campaigns. Phishing attacks often use a combination of email and bogus websites to trick victims into revealing sensitive information. Disinformation campaigns can spread discord, manipulate the public conversation, influence policy development, or disrupt markets.

CISA encourages individuals to guard against COVID-19-related phishing attacks and disinformation campaigns by taking the following precautions:

- Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails and be wary of email attachments.
- Do not reveal personal or financial information in emails, and not respond to email solicitations for this information.
- Review CISA's Tip on Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Scams for more information on recognizing and protecting against phishing.
- Review the Federal Trade Commission's blog post on coronavirus scams for information on avoiding COVID-19 related scams.
- Use trusted sources – such as legitimate, government websites – for up-to-date, fact-based information about COVID-19.

In general:

- Don't click on sources you don't know. It could download a virus onto your computer or device. Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. If you see ads touting prevention, treatment, or cure claims for the Coronavirus, ask yourself: if there's been a medical breakthrough, would you be hearing about it for the first time through an ad or sales pitch?
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.
- Be alert to "investment opportunities." The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is warning people about online promotions, including on social media, claiming that the products or services of publicly-traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure coronavirus and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result.

Stay safe, stay home, and call your Internet Banking Specialist if you have questions!

-American Bank & Trust Co., Inc