## COVID Phishing Tactics

The overwhelming amount of news coverage surrounding the novel coronavirus has created a new danger — phishing attacks looking to exploit public fears about the sometimes-deadly virus. The coronavirus has affected the lives of millions of people around the world. It's impossible to predict its long-term impact. But it is possible to take steps to help protect yourself against coronavirus-related scams. Coronavirus-themed phishing emails can take different forms, including these.

- **Health alerts.** Cybercriminals have sent phishing emails designed to look like they're from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control or World Health Organization. The email might falsely claim to link to a list of coronavirus cases in your area. Common language in these emails and texts include:
  - "You are immediately advised to go through the cases above for safety hazard"
  - "Please read the attached document and provide the requested information to see if you're at risk."
  - "Due to the fact that cases of coronavirus infection are documented in your area, the World Health Organization has prepared a document"
- **Health advice emails.** Phishers have sent emails that offer purported medical advice to help protect you against the coronavirus. The emails might claim to be from medical experts near Wuhan, China, where the coronavirus outbreak began. Common phrases include:
  - "This little measure can save you"
  - "Use the link below to download Safety Measures"
- **Workplace policy emails.** Cybercriminals have targeted employees' workplace email accounts by sending out documents with malicious software. Individuals could provide personal details in response to a phishing attempt that promises information about a company's remote-work plan.
- **Workplace Purchases.** Emails can be doctored to look like a purchase orders for face masks or other supplies in order to trick an employee into wiring payments to a fraudulent account.

Remember, all external emails will contain a yellow warning banner.

Please report any suspected scam or phishing attempt to OTphishing@wv.gov.

## Relevant Links

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC website includes the most current information about the coronavirus. Here's a partial list of topics covered.
- World Health Organization. WHO provides a range of information, including how to protect yourself, travel advice, and answers to common questions.
- National Institutes of Health. NIH provides updated information and guidance about the coronavirus. It includes information from other government organizations.