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COVID-19 SCAMS

As you Stay Calm, Stay, Home, and Stay Safe, please Stay Alert for these scams:

Security Tips - Exploiting the Coronavirus: Watch out for These Scams!

Look out! The bad guys are preying on your fear and sending all sorts of scams related to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

Below are some examples of the types of scams you should be on the lookout for:

1. Emails that appear to be from organizations such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), or the WHO (World Health Organization). The scammers have crafted emails that appear to come from these sources, but they actually contain malicious phishing links or dangerous attachments.
2. Emails that ask for charity donations for studies, doctors, or victims that have been affected by the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Scammers often create fake charity emails after global phenomena occur, like natural disasters, or health scares like the COVID-19.
3. Emails that claim to have a "new" or "updated" list of cases of Coronavirus in your area. These emails could contain dangerous links and information designed to scare you into clicking on the link.

Keep in mind, these are only a few examples and these scam artists are constantly coming up with new ways to fool you.

What Can I Do?

Remain cautious! And always remember the following to protect yourself from scams like this:

- Never click on links or download attachments from an email that you weren't expecting.
- If you receive a suspicious email that appears to come from an official organization such as the WHO or CDC, report the email to the official organization through their website.
- If you want to make a charity donation, go to the charity website of your choice to submit your payment. Type the charity's web address in your browser instead of clicking on any links in emails, or other messages.



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Stop Look Think - Don't be fooled

Some other things to look out for:

With people staying at home, there's an increase in these phishing e-mails, most asking for personal information, or advising you of a debt owed, a problem with your account or something else similar, prompting the recipient to purchase Green Dot money cards, or other commercially available debit cards and to provide the information to the emailer or caller.

ALL OF THESE ARE FAKE!! No legitimate governmental agency or retailer will ask for this information over the phone, and certainly will not require payment via pre-paid debit cards or gift cards.

With the stay at home order for PA, many residents have taken to ordering items on-line and having them delivered, with this has also come an increase in porch-pirating in which persons are cruising the neighborhoods and stealing the deliveries. Keep an eye out for your packages and bring them inside as soon as possible.