BEWARE: COVID-19 PHISHING EMAILS

SPREADING FEAR AND PANIC OF INCREASED LOCAL INFECTIONS



Avoid COVID-19 phishing scams by practicing good email hygiene. The CDC recommends you take at least 20 seconds to wash your hands to avoid germs. We recommend you take at least 20 seconds to review each email to avoid falling victim to a phishing scam.

2019-nCoV: Coronavirus outbreak in your city (Emergency)

CDC Tue 2/

CDC-INFO <cdcchan-00813@cdc-gov.org>

FAKE E-MAIL ADDRESS

Tue 2/4/2020 8:33 AM

To: John Smith

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network February 4, 2020 CDCHAN-00813

Dear Sir/Madam, ● TOO GENERIC

CHECK BEFORE YOU CLICK!

Hover your cursor over the link to preview the link URL. BEWARE of links that direct you to a login page.

FAKE E-MAIL ADDRESS
TOO GENERIC
BAD LINKS
URGENCY
SYNTAX & GRAMATICAL ERRORS

The Centers for Desease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Provence, China that began in December 2019. CDC has established an Incident Management System to coordinate a domestic and international public health response.

Updated list of new cases around your city are available at (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/newcases-cities.html).

You are immediately advised to go through the cases above to avoid potential hazards.

URGENCY

Sincerely,

CDC-INFO National Contact Center

National Center for Health Marketing

Division of eHealth Marketing

Centers for Disease control and Prevention

POOR GRAMMAR





20 SECONDS TO BETTER EMAIL HYGIENE

- WATCH FOR OVERLY GENERIC CONTENT AND GREETINGS
 Cyber criminals will send a large batch of emails. Look for examples like "Dear valued customer."
- 2 EXAMINE THE ENTIRE FROM EMAIL ADDRESS

 The first part of the email address may be legitimate but the last part might be off by letter or may include a number in the usual domain.
- 2 LOOK FOR URGENCY OR DEMANDING ACTIONS
 "You've won! Click here to redeem prize," or
 "We have your browser history pay now or
 we are telling your boss."
- 4 CAREFULLY CHECK ALL LINKS

 Mouse over the link and see if the destination matches where the email implies you will be taken.

NOTICE MISSPELLINGS, INCORRECT GRAMMAR, & ODD PHRASING

This might be a deliberate attempt to try to bypass spam filters.

- 6 CHECK FOR SECURE WEBSITES

 Any webpage where you enter personal information should have a url with https://. The "s" stands for secure.
- DON'T CLICK ON ATTACHMENTS RIGHT AWAY

 Attachments containing viruses might have an intriguing message encouraging you to open them such as "Here is the Schedule I promised."
 - Torchsec Technologies