



COVID-19 Cyber Risk Update

While everyone's priority is to obviously focus on personal hygiene and safety, there are bad actors taking advantage of the situation for personal gains. A few things to be aware of as well as best practices on the cyber/privacy hygiene front.

Risks & exposures (adapted from [Lockton's COVID-19 webcast](#))

Remote workforce

- Reliance upon VPNs and other remote applications may not support the bandwidth and other productivity levels - system failure of the organization's infrastructure or SaaS provider could result.
- Testing should be conducted to ensure systems are able to accommodate increased remote workforce.
- Home and personal workstations are often less secure and more susceptible to hackers.

Data collection & privacy

- Companies may be careless in sharing information they have regarding affected employees and others - privacy breaches could violate HIPAA, state laws and company privacy laws.
- Companies may react to the epidemic by requesting information from customers, vendors and employees that they are not entitled to ask for.

Phishing

- High-profile global issues and crises are perfect fodder for hackers; using the coronavirus theme for phishing emails or other predatory techniques is prevalent.

Business Interruption

- Interrupted suppliers and targeted attacks knowing the control rooms aren't staffed adequately can result in easier prey from an adversary standpoint.
- A company's ability to operate and maintain its systems because of a quarantine or shutdown could potentially trigger BI coverage; unintentional or unplanned system outage coverage could be invoked but will most likely be aggressively disputed.

Be aware

Johns Hopkins has been a leading source of COVID-19 data but we are now seeing imposter sites take information and infect users - <https://www.americanbanker.com/news/coronavirus-scams-to-watch-out-for>.

Best practices

- Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails and beware of email attachments. Using Caution with Email Attachments and Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks.
- Use trusted sources - such as legitimate, government websites - for up-to-date, fact-based information about COVID-19.
- Do not reveal personal or financial information in email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information.
- Verify a charity's authenticity before making donations. Review the Federal Trade Commission's page on [Charity Scams](#) for more information.
- Review [CISA Insights on Risk Management for COVID-19](#) for more information.