

In light of recent developments in the status of COVID-19, the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) would like to remind you that, now more than ever, it is particularly crucial to remain diligent in our efforts to protect our data and devices from cyber threats.

It is an unfortunate fact that during challenging times such as these, cyber criminals tend to take advantage of the situation. It is especially important to protect all data, systems and devices. In an effort to assist you in making sound cybersecurity decisions, please keep the following cybersecurity safe practices in mind.

1. Only visit reputable websites.
  - Think about what you are clicking when on the internet. In any time of disaster or large-scale events, malicious actors focus their efforts on the fears and anxiety of the general public. BE skeptical. Think before you click.
2. Use trusted and secured wireless connections. Free public Wi-Fi connections are often targeted by cyber-criminals looking for victims.
3. Secure your Wi-Fi network at home. Your home's wireless router is the primary entrance for cybercriminals to access your connected devices, and you can better secure your Wi-Fi network and devices by changing the factory-set default password and username for each one.
4. Malicious actors often send out phishing e-mails that appear to come from legitimate websites.
5. Be suspicious of any email or text that:
  - Requests personal information
  - Contains spelling and grammatical errors
  - Is unexpected or from a company or organization with do not have a relationship
6. **If you are suspicious of an email:**
  - Do NOT click on the links provided
  - Do NOT open any attachments
  - Do NOT provide personal information or financial data
7. It is wise to be skeptical of any message, text, email, phone call or website that asks you to share personal data - especially if the request is from an unknown source.
8. The remote work solutions deployed by the State of Illinois are designed to protect State data by keeping it separated from personal machines. Please do not save any state information or data on personal devices.

Remember that our help desk will NEVER send emails that require you to send personal information via email, external web sites, links or pop-up windows. If in doubt report any cybersecurity concerns regarding your SOI accounts to [DoIT.Security@illinois.gov](mailto:DoIT.Security@illinois.gov)