



What to Look For...

We know that cybercriminals will use current topics in the news to prey on our fears. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) seems to be a goldmine for this, with misinformation feeding the fear and anxiety of individuals just trying to protect their families and loved ones.

Phishing campaigns using COVID-19 as a lure in the subject line have been observed since January. Some emails claim to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the World Health Organization. Some offer a link to a Coronavirus map of the recipient's neighborhood, or an update on how many people have been infected.

There are hackers in the shadows sending emails and creating websites designed to trick people into clicking on malicious links disguised as helpful resources. Miracle claims and health advice are popping up with email and links to websites that promise quick cures, or vaccination-like protections from the Coronavirus. Consumers can then end up with malware on their computers that steal online banking credentials or credit card numbers.

The FTC has provided tips to keep these scammers at bay:

- **Don't click on links from sources you don't know.** They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- **Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC** or experts saying that have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [who.int](https://www.who.int) (official websites).
- **Ignore online offers for vaccinations.** There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus — online or in stores.
- **Do your homework when it comes to donations,** whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

SAFE: Security Awareness For Everyone

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