Corona Virus Scams Online: Remind Employees to Be Aware

Every crisis is an opportunity for bad guys, it seems. It is a good idea to remind employees that they may see an upsurge in scam activity due to current events. The FTC issued a warning yesterday: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/02/coronavirus-scammers-follow-headlines

Here is a generic message designed as an "all employees" reminder about personal and professional vigilance. Please feel free to adapt it as needed for your organization.

Please be aware, both on your personal devices/networks and at work, of emails, social media, texts, or other messaging designed to engage you in corona- (or stock market-) related scams. The FTC issued a warning yesterday: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/02/coronavirus-scammers-follow-headlines

If it seems too good to be true (or if it seems crazy): it probably is. If you want to verify something you've read online or in an email, check the CDC website for up-to-date health information or Snopes.com for information about prominent scam stories.

Don't give out personal information or click links from senders or posters you don't know.

Be especially careful about emails purporting to be from customers or from your bank, credit card issuer, insurance company, etc. that ask you to take action, "click here," or "verify information" because of corona virus emergency measures.

If you receive anything suspicious at work, please report it to IT or ask your manager about how to approach it.

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