ICYMI 03.21.20 | In Case You Missed IT

OPSEC • InfoSec: Online security tips for working and learning at home

WASHINGTON — Teleworking during the Coronavirus outbreak? While working from home can help slow the spread of the virus, it brings new challenges: juggling work while kids are home from school; learning new software and conferencing programs; and managing paper files at home. As you’re getting your work-at-home systems set up, here are some tips for protecting your devices and personal information.

Start with cybersecurity and cyber hygiene basics. Keep your security software up to date. Use passwords on all of your devices and apps. Make sure the passwords are long, strong and unique: at least 12 characters that are a mix of numbers, symbols, capital and lowercase letters.

Secure your home network. Start with your router. Turn on encryption (WPA2 or WPA3). Encryption scrambles information sent over your network so outsiders can’t read it. WPA2 and WPA3 are the most up-to-date encryption standards to protect information sent over a wireless network. No WPA3 or WPA2 options on your router? Try updating your router software, then check again to see if WPA2 or WPA3 are available. If not, consider replacing your router. For more guidance, read Securing Your Wireless Network and Secure Remote Access.

Keep an eye on your laptop. If you’re using a laptop, make sure it is password-protected, locked and secure. Never leave it unattended – like in a vehicle or at a public charging station.

Securely store sensitive files. When there’s a legitimate business need to transfer confidential information from office to home, keep it out of sight and under lock and key. If you don’t have a file cabinet at home, use a locked room. For more tips, read about physical security.

Dispose of sensitive data securely. Don’t just throw it in the trash or recycling bin. Shred it. Paperwork you no longer need can be treasure to identity thieves if it includes personal information about customers or employees.

Follow your employer’s or association’s security practices. Your home is now an extension of your office and your chapter. Please follow the protocols each has implemented.

Want to learn more? Discover our small business cybersecurity materials and online security articles at FTC.gov. If you are able to work from home, thank you for helping slow the spread of the Coronavirus. bt

— Source: Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

IBM and The Weather Channel debut coronavirus map

ATLANTA — IBM and its subsidiary, The Weather Channel, have created an online map that tracks the spread of U.S. Coronavirus cases.

The new map, which debuted nationwide this week after a few days of testing, shows a state-by-state and county-by-county breakdown of confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths.

People can see specific information from their counties that includes the percentage increase of new COVID-19 cases from the previous week and a graph detailing the daily progression of new cases and deaths. The service, which can be accessed from The Weather Channel’s website or mobile app, also features safety tips from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as news articles.

— Source: IBM

Overwhelmed with Coronavirus info? Ask yourself these questions:

Who is the message from? What do they want you to do? What evidence supports the message?

After you answer all 3 questions, does the message still seem accurate?

ftc.gov/coronavirus • usa.gov/coronavirus • coronavirus.gov

— Source: IBM
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All,

The circumstances surrounding the coronavirus are continuing to develop each day. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage our members to exercise safety and caution. We are closely monitoring developments and offer the following information and guidance.

What to know about COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus):

The general risk remains low; however, there have been several confirmed cases across the country including two confirmed cases in Georgia (Our conference location).

In confirmed COVID-19 cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

According to the CDC, older adults and those with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

Please follow guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and U.S. State Department for recommendations and travel advisories.

Person-to-person spread is occurring, although it’s unclear exactly how it is transmitted and how easily the virus spreads between people.

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

We could be in this state for an extended period of time and encourage you to plan accordingly for student and adult programming. Crisis ultimately breeds innovation. This is a unique opportunity for us to re-evaluate how we may still nurture and develop working professionals and future STEM leaders, all while being mindful of our members’ health, safety, and being intentionally inclusive of those without resources.

The National Executive Committee and Conference Team are working closely to assess the situation and consider the potential options for the conference. We are evaluating the development of a virtual conference experience. Our goal is to create an unmatched experience that retains the same energy, value, and diverse experience for all participants no matter the format the conference takes. Rest assured, we are continuously monitoring this developing situation and will continue to keep you all updated on plans for the conference experience as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Morris, BDPA President

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