

From: [KU Information Technology](#)
To: [KU Information Technology](#)
Subject: KU IT Security Alert: Malicious emails related to coronavirus
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:36:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)



Colleagues,

The KU IT Security Office has received reports from the federal government as well as nearly 100 reports from members of the KU community that criminals are using the COVID-19 pandemic to send phishing messages, malicious attachments and links to malicious websites. These messages claim to offer COVID-19 infection maps, official notices and other misinformation. You might also receive messages via text message, WhatsApp, TikTok and other social media platforms.

The attackers know people are frightened, that the situation is continually changing and confusing and that people are hungry for information. This makes us all more vulnerable to social engineering and cyber-attacks.

Protecting Yourself

Remember—all phishing and malware messages share common features:

1. The sender's address is not a legitimate sender for the information source the message claims to be from. (For example, the sender's domain name is gmx[.]com but the message claims to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)
2. The message is intentionally written in a way to make you panic and click without thinking.
3. The message might use poor spelling, grammar or unusual syntax.

I've included some examples of phishing and scam emails reported to abuse@ku.edu below. Keep in mind that the attackers will vary their techniques and that COVID-19 phishing emails will come in different forms, so be wary of any messages that look suspicious.

Credible Sources for Coronavirus Information

The first and best source of authoritative information on COVID-19 is [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov). KU's official COVID-19 website is coronavirus.ku.edu. For information regarding remote work at KU, visit remote.ku.edu. For employment and HR-related information, go to humanresources.ku.edu/coronavirus.

Remember, if you receive a message you think is suspicious, do not respond, click links or open attachments. You should forward it to abuse@ku.edu and then delete it immediately.

For more information about cyber-threats and COVID-19, visit the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency website at www.cisa.gov/coronavirus.

Yours,

Julie

 Julie Fugett
Chief Information Security Officer
KU Information Technology

Examples of Malicious Coronavirus Emails

From: Ku 2020-03-20 16:01 <[redacted].com>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:01 AM
To: [redacted] Nick <[redacted]@ku.edu>
Subject: Re: Coronavirus Review for ku.edu on 16:01
Importance: High

Office 365 Coronavirus Review

Recent Update on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
COVID-19 ID: #NIPH

CASE ID: Coronavirus
EMMERGENCY NO: 911 - 112
EMAIL ID: EDCARN@ who.int

REVIEW NOW::

[Review on how to recover from covid-19.](#)

The screenshot shows an Outlook window titled "IMPORTANT: Updates Regarding COVID-19: - Message (HTML)". The interface includes a ribbon with "Message" selected, showing options like "Delete", "Archive", "Reply", "Reply All", "Forward", "Create New", "Move", "Mark Unread", "Categorize", "Follow Up", "Translate", "Read Aloud", and "Zoom".

The email content is as follows:

IMPORTANT: Updates Regarding COVID-19:

PH Health HelpDesk <[redacted]@yamashiro-misora.com>
To Chase White
Fri 3/13/2020 4:30 PM

Hello [redacted].

Just like everyone else, we are closely monitoring this dynamic situation, both globally and locally. Nothing is more important to us than keeping you and our employees safe, as well as doing our part to help protect the most vulnerable people in our families and communities.

With the number of COVID-19 coronavirus infections and casualties growing, you need to identify how this epidemic could affect your organization. Many quarantine protocols are failing, making it even more critical for you to and plan for prevention and treatment now.

<https://rbtravel.com.br/vxcz/y2hhc2uud2hpdgvachjpbww4ec5jb20>
Click or tap to follow link.

Check this new measures from CDC to protect you and other staff to implement guidance from several entities:

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)
- State Department
- Major medical clinics

