

Memo

To All WHO Staff Members

From CISO

Date 4/4/2025

Subject: Cyber Attacks on WHO

Highlights

- Cyber attacks targeting WHO and other health organizations have more than doubled in recent months
 - Elite hackers are attempting to steal passwords belonging to WHO agency staff
 - Extreme caution and awareness is advised
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In recent months, we have noticed an increase in cyber attacks aimed towards our organization and others in the medical industry. Considering the role that medical organizations play in the lives of the world population, the attacks are shameful and reprehensible. We understand this may cause additional stress and burden to you while also putting lives at risk. This is a challenging time when our focus should be solely on helping the world get through this pandemic. However, this matter requires a high degree of attention as it could impact our ability to be effective and continue doing valuable work. We want to assure you we are working hard to prevent such attacks and to keep you safe. Additionally, we will ask for everyone in our organization to do their part in preventing such attacks.

Call to Action

We need your help to identify and prevent cyber attacks. In addition to the commendable work that our cyber security are doing to keep you and our organization safe, there are some actions you can take to help:

- Look out for phishing attempts
 - Know how to identify and stay away from phishing attempts. See more information [here](#)

- Recent attempts have been made to impersonate our internal email systems, seeking to steal your login credentials and gain access to the real systems
- Be aware of social engineering
 - Be extra cautious about others asking sensitive personal or work related information. More information [here](#)
- Safeguard information in public places
 - In a remote world, working in public spaces is more common. Be mindful of who can see your screen and consider getting privacy screens like [these](#)
- Password hygiene
 - Use [best practices](#) to create a strong password.

Staying Safe

Your cyber security team is hard at work proactively monitoring existing and emerging threats. We are also partnering with other organizations and law enforcement to spot potential attacks and stay ahead of bad actors. For example, we have worked with Kaspersky to spot similar threats made to other health organizations. By combining findings and resources with other organizations, and with the help of everyone at WHO, we are confident we can stay ahead of hackers and prevent an attack that may impact lives.

Sincerely,

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Chief Information Security Officer