April 28, 2020

**Dear Spartans,**

During a crisis, cybercriminals try to manipulate and mislead unsuspecting targets online to do something they wouldn’t normally do. This deception, known as **phishing**, often takes the form of bogus articles or links from medical, government, or other seemingly trustworthy sources through email or social media. Fraudsters are using the pandemic to circulate **coronavirus scams**, including fraudulent cures and treatments, fake charities, tracking maps with malware, and imposters that ask for your personal information or money.

Recently, **these attacks have been directed toward the Spartan community**. MSU IT has seen a significant increase in phishing, malware, fraud, attempted NetID compromises, and “**Zoom-bombing**.” While MSU IT and MSU Police continuously work to keep our community safe from cyberthreats, we can’t do it alone. We’ve come together to remind you that sound cybersecurity practices are everyone’s responsibility and we all must learn how to protect ourselves and each other.

Here are some **important steps you can take**:

1. [Follow best computer practices](#) including firewall, antivirus, and system updates
2. [Learn how to spot and report a phishing attempt](#)
3. [Create a secure password](#)
4. [Secure your Zoom meeting](#)
5. [Report cybersecurity incidents](#)

If you believe you are the victim of a cybercrime, contact MSU Police at 517-355-2221 or your local police department. Visit [police.msu.edu](http://police.msu.edu) for MSU Police information.

For IT-related questions or concerns, contact MSU IT Service Desk by phone (517-432-6200 or 844-678-6200), email ithelp@msu.edu, or chat. Visit [secureit.msu.edu](http://secureit.msu.edu) for more IT security tips.

Find university updates and FAQs on the novel coronavirus at [msu.edu/coronavirus](http://msu.edu/coronavirus). Refer to [remote.msu.edu](http://remote.msu.edu) for remote learning, teaching, researching, and working resources.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

**Michigan State University Information Technology**

**Michigan State University Police Department**