

Alert: COVID-19 used as click bait

We have seen an increase in attempted phishing attacks using Covid-19 information as click bait. They are in line with the usual email scams, encouraging settlement of bogus invoices, suggesting payment for actions, prompting the reader to click on links and requests for a transfer of funds.

What should you do if you have received a scam email?

- Exercise **caution** when dealing with any unsolicited emails.
- Check the **sender's email domain** by hovering your mouse over the sender's name.
- **Do not click on any links** in the scam email.
- **Do not reply to the email** or contact the senders in any way.
- **Do not open any attachments** or download content or images if you are prompted to do so.
- Permanently **delete the email**.

By applying the above, this will help protect yourselves as well as your organisation.

Examples of wording in some of the fraudulent emails is as follows:

I am contacting you in regards of our company urgent need for Ge-Briq LIQUID OIL, is a dietary food supplement used by veterinarians & Doctors for training of wild animal, treatment of cancer and brain tumour.

Now it's confirmed that this product can be use for corona virus. Our company will pay you then you will buy the product from the vendor there in UK then you will supply it to our company

Add me on WhatsApp +XX-XXXX-XXXX. Pls don't reply to this mail because I'm not working in NHS anymore.

Jack Ma foundation has donated \$1 Million USD to you. Contact Jack Ma foundation with your personal email (not official or business email) via email (xxxxxx@gmail.com) for more details.

Disclaimer The information contained in this communication from the sender (MPISD) is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast Ltd, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a safer and more useful place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).

Fake emails often (but not always) display some of the following characteristics:

- The email contains spelling and grammatical errors.
- The sender's email address doesn't tally with the trusted organisation's website address.
- The email does not use your proper name, but uses a non-specific greeting like "Dear customer", "Hi friend"
- A sense of urgency; for example the threat that unless you act immediately your account may be closed.
- A prominent website link. These can be forged or seem very similar to the proper address of the known company, but even a single character's difference means a different website.
- A request for personal information such as username, password or bank details.
- You weren't expecting to get an email from the company that appears to have sent it.
- The entire text of the email is contained within an image rather than the usual text format.
- The image contains an embedded hyperlink which if clicked would divert to a bogus site.

Be aware that scams and phishing attempts are not always in the form of an email, but can be a text message, phone call or social media contact for example. You can report suspicious contacts by emails or other methods to [Action Fraud](#). If you have inadvertently clicked on a link or provided your details, then please advise the IT Security team or your Local Counter Fraud Specialist at the earliest opportunity.

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