Colleagues,

While we understand that everyone is busy trying to prepare for teleworking arrangements in response to the Coronavirus threat, we wanted to take a moment to remind campus to be vigilant for related phishing emails. During media-intensive events such as this, cyber attackers often try and take advantage of the fear and anxiety that people may have. These criminals may send you fake emails with subject lines and content mentioning Coronavirus and will try and get you to click on malicious links or open infected attachments. Below are some of the most common tactics being used and indicators of a phishing attack that we are seeing right now and the best course of actions to take in response:

* Messages that communicates a sense of urgency – take time to evaluate the email and do not rush into responding or complying
* Message that pressures you into bypassing or ignoring our policies and procedures – contact your supervisor if you have specific questions or doubts about any new guidance that you receive that differs from what you normally do
* Message that promotes miracle cures, such as vaccines or medicine that will protect you -- If it sounds too good to be true…(it probably is)
* Messages purporting to be from official or government organization – Manually navigate to the official websites for the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or other authorities on the subject to get the latest updates

A few examples of such phishing attacks are included for your awareness (below).

If you receive any messages that match any of these behaviors, please do not reply to them or click on any links or attachments within them. Instead, try and contact the sender first by other means (e.g. phone, Teams, etc.) to validate it. If you are unable to do this or have confirmed that the email is not real, then please forward it to phish@ecu.edu. If you believe you have already been a victim of a phishing attack, please report this as soon as possible to the ITCS Help Desk at 252-328-9866.

Please keep in mind these attacks can happen at work or at home, via email, text messaging or even over the phone.

Thank you,
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