

COVID-19 Health System Updates

May 14, 2020, Thursday

RE: Cyber Attacks Targeting COVID-19 Research

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.K. National Cyber Security Center have recently issued alerts (more information [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) warning that nation-state actors are conducting intensive, ongoing campaigns aimed at organizations conducting COVID-19 research and development efforts.

These targeted attacks are a real threat to the Mount Sinai Health System. We want to help you protect yourself and the organization by reminding you what to watch out for and what measures you can take. Malicious cyber actors seek to steal sensitive research data and intellectual property by various means, including phishing attacks, account compromise, and exploiting unpatched vulnerabilities.

What you can do to help

Be vigilant to phishing attempts:

- Never provide logon credentials or other confidential or personal information in an email
- Be wary of unsolicited offers of assistance or other opportunities
- Don't open email attachments or click on web links from unknown senders
- Any and all suspicious emails should be forwarded as an attachment to reportspam@mountsinai.org
- Delete unwanted email and block the sender

Protect your account:

- Use a strong password and change it immediately if you suspect that it has been compromised
- Don't use your company email or logon ID for any personal use
- Use different IDs for sensitive systems/applications
- Use multi-factor authentication for your personal accounts

Protect your workstations and software:

- Keep the OS and applications up to date; turn on auto-update where possible
- Maintain antivirus and antispyware engines and signatures
- Don't use freeware or shareware

Finally, please report any suspicious computer-based behavior to Mount Sinai Health System IT Security at ITSecurity@mountsinai.org

Thank you all for your attention and assistance in keeping Mount Sinai's IP and data safe.

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