

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 2022

Dear Maryland State Employees,

Every October, Cybersecurity Awareness Month strives to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity across our Nation. Led by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCSA), Cybersecurity Awareness Month shares messages and weekly themes on the importance of staying safe online. This year's theme - **"See Yourself in Cyber"** - highlights the contribution that all of us make towards the collective mission of securing technology resources.

This year will focus on the "people" part of cybersecurity, providing information and resources to ensure all individuals and organizations make smart decisions on the job, at home, and at school. Cybersecurity Awareness Month encourages everyone to be conscientious of their digital footprint and the important security practices that come along with it. The virtual safety of our community, and our nation, depends on our personal online safety practices.

This month is all about the actions that you can take to improve our collective cyber posture! All month long, we will be promoting these key behaviors to encourage every employee and citizen to protect themselves online. 2022's Cybersecurity Awareness Month's areas of focus revolve around four fundamental cybersecurity best practices:

- Recognizing and reporting phishing – which is still one of the primary threat actions used by cybercriminals today.
- Understanding the benefits of using a password manager and dispelling existing myths around password manager security and ease of use.
- Enabling multi-factor authentication on personal devices and business networks.
- Installing updates on a regular basis and turning on automatic updates.

We should all approach cybersecurity with care in owning, securing, and protecting all our online accounts and information. Below are links to resources that you can utilize to keep yourself safe online:

- CISA's Cybersecurity Awareness Month Website:
 - <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month>
- CISA's Cyber Essentials – basic cyber best practices for business leaders:
 - <https://www.cisa.gov/cyber-essentials>
- Learn about careers in cyber with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies:
 - <https://niccs.cisa.gov/>



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Please keep an eye out for future emails and follow The Maryland Department of Information Technology on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay connected on this year's Cybersecurity Awareness Month Campaign.

Sincerely,

Chip Stewart

State Chief Information Security Officer