



CYBERSECURITY

[Microsoft Issues Cybersecurity Risk Warning and Offers Help to Hospitals During COVID-19 Crisis](#)

On April 1, 2020, Microsoft issued a specific warning to health care entities alerting them that they are at particular risk during the COVID-19 crisis, as threat actors are using the pandemic to take advantage of vulnerabilities while hospitals are focused on responding to the crisis.

According to Microsoft “[D]uring this time of crisis, as organizations have moved to a remote workforce, ransomware operators have found a practical target: network devices like gateway and virtual private network (VPN) appliances. Unfortunately, one sector that’s particularly exposed to these attacks is healthcare.” [Read more](#)

HIPAA

[OCR Issues Additional Guidance on HIPAA for Providers and First Responders on COVID-19 Front Lines](#)

On March 24, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued new HIPAA guidance to help providers and first responders in its efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

OCR’s [guidance](#) addresses when HIPAA allows disclosures without patient authorization of identifying health information to first responders – such as law enforcement and emergency medical services personnel – and public health authorities related to individuals infected with or exposed to COVID-19. OCR confirms such disclosures are permissible under HIPAA in certain circumstances. [Read more](#)

PRIVACY TIP #233

[Be Wary of Coronavirus Telemarketing Calls](#)

The scammers know that most of us are working from home and are trying to use this to their advantage. The robocalls have increased, and telemarketers are calling more frequently, but with a new twist—preying on fears of consumers about coronavirus. [Read more](#)

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