



## THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER - CYBERCRIME ISN'T

Now that the holidays are over, many people are starting to relax. And that is a good thing. The usual stress of the holidays combined with the added stress of the pandemic was overwhelming for many.

But cybercriminals never relax. They just adapt, to whatever will get our attention. Since the pandemic is still with us, information about it still has an attraction.

As do bargains. The economic turmoil of the pandemic puts additional stress on many so bargains get our attention.

I know we are all tired and ready for a change, but do not let your guard down.

Relax as you can, but remain alert for scams, phishing, vishing, and other types of attacks.

These attacks will continue, and predictions are they will increase in 2021. Why, because they work! Cybercriminals attack relentlessly. And, even if almost all fail, it only takes one to succeed for them to win.

So, you must remain alert at all times. Suspect every email, text, and phone call that asks for personal information or your password. Do not be intimidated by calls or emails that appear to come from company executives or government authorities. Neither one should ever ask for personal information. Sure, your company needs certain information for payroll and tax purposes, but they already have that. No executive should ever ask for it on the phone or in an email. Government agencies never request it on the phone or in an email.

Therefore, any request is immediately suspect. Do not reply or give the information. Instead, if you believe the request may be valid, contact the appropriate organization. But never reply to the email or call the number that called you or any number listed in the email. Instead, contact your company department directly and ask if they requested this information, and why. If the request is from outside the company, such as supposedly from a governmental agency, search on the web for the phone number of the agency and call them directly and ask. I would be highly surprised if the request was real.

Next, do not be tempted by emails or web and social media postings with information about the pandemic, sales or bargains. If you want information about the pandemic, go directly to reliable sources. Our sister company Global Institutional Solutions, [gisandco.com](http://gisandco.com), has an excellent service offering vetted information on the pandemic from reliable sources. If its bargains or sales, look at the store's website or other reliable web services.

You have probably heard the saying an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this case it really is. Because giving away your personal information or letting malware into your company will cause great hardship that will not go away easily.

To learn more about cyber protection and education contact AIM Cyber at [info@AIMglb.com](mailto:info@AIMglb.com) or call (888) 773-1920.