



CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



Main Office:

516-573-9600

Email:

oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov

**CERT IS
WHAT
YOU
MAKE IT**



**COUNTY,
STATE,
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM**

CERT Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

Dear Members,

As the year finally comes to a close and we welcome in 2021 we wish to thank everyone for all the assistances during this past and very difficult year. We remember all those affected by the recent weather events, fires, and the COVID 19 pandemic, also our family and love ones who are no longer with us. We will always keep them all in our thoughts and prayers

As we enter in to the new year we are still faced with many challenges and difficulties. We are seeing an increase of people infected and hospitalized daily. County Executive Laura Curran recently wrote “The number of COVID hospitalizations in Nassau has more than tripled since Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving, we saw a steady increase in cases, hospitalizations, & fatalities — and now we’re seeing a concerning acceleration, & what may be the beginning of a post-Christmas surge”.

Division 1 recently held a meeting, via ZOOM, Division 2 has a meeting scheduled for the end of the month and RACES has been holding ZOOM meetings the first Thursday of each month. Details can be found in this newsletter. We are all hopeful that we will soon be able to get together and start having in person meetings, trainings, etc and move the CERT program forward again. We are and will continue to monitor the situation.

We are aware that everyone's ID cards will expire the end of the year We will be issuing new ID cards once we are able to get back together and have meetings. In the event of an emergency or detail we will make arraignments and issue ID cards to those involved.

We want to wish every one of you a safe, happy and healthy New Year

Bob, Rick & Paul



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services



(RACES)

RACES / CERT Comms Group SITREP

January 2021

RACES is now holding meetings on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is Thursday, January 7.

All the meetings for the foreseeable future will be vital meetings via Zoom.

Anyone wishing to attend can Join from any computer, tablet, or smartphone by entering:

<https://zoom.us/j/95928146234> in your browser.

Or, for audio only, you may dial by phone: 646-876-9923 and enter Meeting ID: 959 2814 6234 #

Any questions you can contact us at nassaucountyny.races@gmail.com

ALSO, HRU (ham Radio University) will be held on Saturday January 9, 2021 This will be a virtual event, for more information go to: <http://hamradiouniversity.org/>



Our 22nd Year!

HRU 2021

Saturday, January 9

"Spreading Ham Radio

Knowledge and Know How"

"A day of education to share ideas, experiences, knowledge and fellowship among Amateur Radio operators"





Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

COVID-19 cases and deaths are rising across the United States. We all must remain vigilant. The changes we have had to make to routines and daily life are extremely hard, but these changes are even more important now and in the future. We must stop the spread of this new and dangerous virus. The more steps you and your family can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the safer you will be.

Three Important Ways to Slow the Spread

- ◆ Wear a mask to protect yourself and others and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- ◆ Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others who don't live with you, and avoid crowds.
- ◆ Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



How to Protect Yourself When Going Out

- ◆ Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others. Masks offer some protection to you and may protect those around you if you are unknowingly infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Choose a mask with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric that fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- ◆ Stay 6 feet apart and avoid crowds.
 - The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.
- ◆ Avoid indoor spaces as much as possible, particularly ones that aren't well ventilated.
 - You may find it harder to stay 6 feet apart in indoor spaces.
- ◆ Wash your hands often.
 - Use soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available

If You are at Risk of Getting Very Sick

- ◆ People of any age can get COVID-19, even healthy young adults and children.
- ◆ People who are older or have certain underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- ◆ Other groups may be at higher risk for getting COVID-19 or having more severe illness.



What to Do If You're Sick

- ◆ Stay home except to get medical care. Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and recover at home without medical care.
- ◆ Isolate yourself from other members of your family to prevent spread to them and the people that they may have contact with, like grandparents.
 - If you have to leave isolation, wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from others, wash your hands frequently, and clean all touched surfaces.
- ◆ Even if you don't feel sick, you can spread COVID-19 to others. Be sure that you protect everyone as though they are the most fragile person in your family.
- ◆ Get care immediately if you are having emergency warning signs, like trouble breathing, pain or pressure in chest.



What Symptoms to Watch For

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are

- Fever
- Cough
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Other symptoms are signs of serious illness. If someone has trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, or difficulty staying awake, get medical care immediately.



LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



DR. LAWRENCE EISENSTEIN
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

If you have any questions, please call the
NYS CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE 888-364-3065
or call
NASSAU COUNTY CORONAVIRUS CALL CENTER 516-227-9570

Nassau County Department of Health • 200 County Seat Drive, Mineola

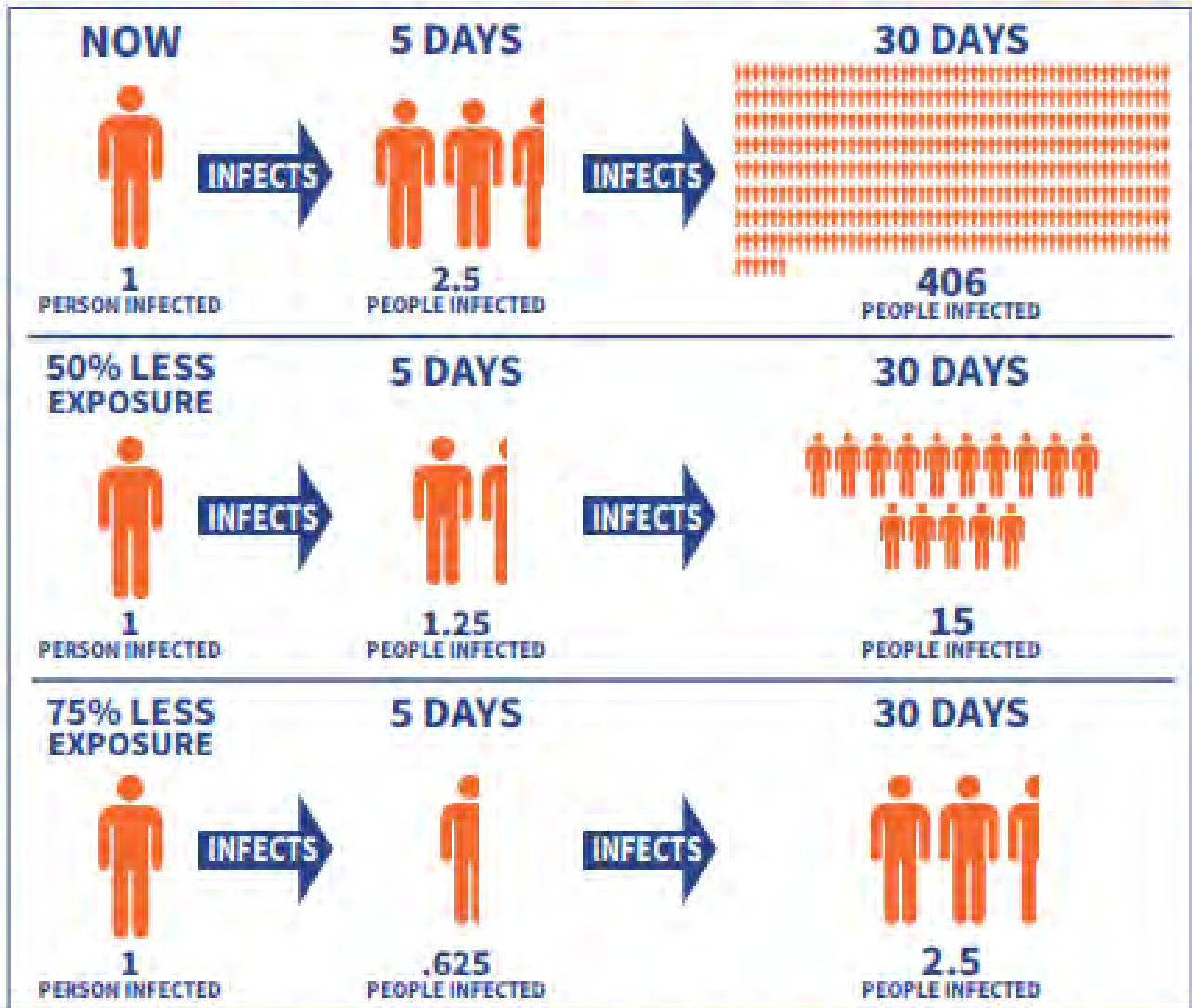


LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



DR. LAWRENCE EISENSTEIN
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE POWER OF SOCIAL DISTANCING



STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS
Maintain 6 Feet of Distance At All Times in Public

If you have any questions, please call the
N.Y.S. CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE 888-364-3065 or call
NASSAU COUNTY CORONAVIRUS CALL CENTER 516-227-9570

Nassau County Department of Health • 200 County Seat Drive, Mineola



How to Defend Against Malware, Phishing, and Scams During COVID-19 Crisis

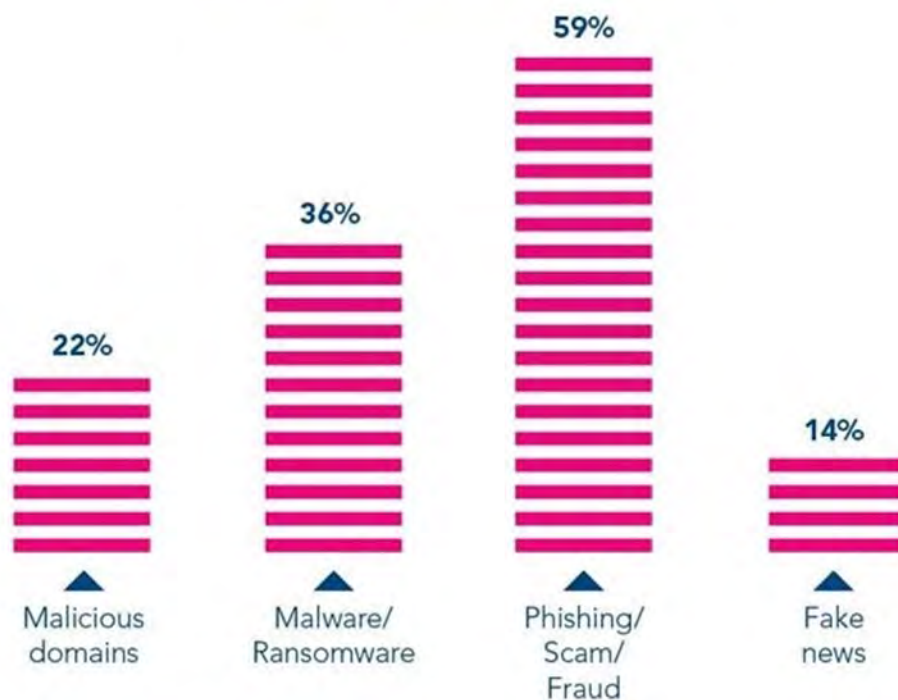


As if the exponential rise in phishing scams and malware attacks in the last five years wasn't enough, the COVID-19 crisis has worsened it further.

The current scenario has given a viable opportunity to cybercriminals to find a way to target individuals, small and large enterprises, government corporations.

According to Interpol's COVID-19 Cybercrime Analysis Report (<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-shows-alarming-rate-of-cyberattacks-during-COVID-19>), based on the feedback of 194 countries, phishing/scam/fraud, malware/ransomware, malicious domains, and fake news have emerged as the biggest digital threats across the world in the wake of the pandemic.

Distribution of the key COVID-19 inflicted cyberthreats based on member countries' feedback



There are primarily two reasons for emerging cyber threats in 2020:

- ◆ Most of the population is working, learning, shopping, or running their business from home, where they're using personal devices from the home/public internet connection, which are usually unsafe and hence highly vulnerable to cybercrimes.
- ◆ The cybercriminals are using the COVID-19 theme to exploit people and enterprises through malicious e-mails and domains. For example, many scammers have rolled out campaigns offering COVID-19 vaccines, free medical tests and testing kits, tax rebates for donation to pandemic relief funds, information on COVID-19 cases, and new job opportunities due to the economic downturn. Some have even launched fake e-commerce websites selling COVID-19 safety, health, and sanitization products.

Let's take a look at a few examples of cyber threats and security breaches that have taken place in 2020.

Scams

- ◆ In April 2020 swindlers impersonated the World Health Organization (WHO) to send e-mails to the public seeking donations to a fictitious COVID-19 fund.
- ◆ In March 2020 the Department of Justice in the United States filed a legal appeal in the federal court to shut down a website called coronavirusmedicalkit[.]com, which claimed to sell free vaccine kits.

Phishing

- ◆ A phishing scam campaign (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/leemathews/2020/04/28/new-phishing-attacks-prey-on-job-loss-fears-with-fake-zoom-meeting-invites/?sh=723e2b604602>) sent out fake ZOOM invites to employees from HR. The idea was to phish out their passwords.
- ◆ Several UK citizens (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phishing-and-bogus-emails-hm-revenue-and-customs-examples/phishing-emails-and-bogus-contact-hm-revenue-and-customs-examples>) received an e-mail from a fake government ID telling them to claim a tax refund to protect against the COVID-19 crisis.

Malware

- ◆ The Powershell malware attacks in 2020 have witnessed a sharp increase of 117% ([https://www.mcafee.com/blogs/other-blogs/mcafee-labs/mcafee-labs-report-reveals-continuing-surge-of-covid-19-threats-and-malware/\)_in_North_America](https://www.mcafee.com/blogs/other-blogs/mcafee-labs/mcafee-labs-report-reveals-continuing-surge-of-covid-19-threats-and-malware/)_in_North_America)).
- ◆ Ryuk (<https://thehackernews.com/2020/10/ransomware-attack-hospital.html>) has emerged as one of the biggest malware threats to US hospitals and healthcare providers in 2020.

Ways to Safeguard Against COVID—19 Digital Threats

Cyber risk management calls for both preventive and detective measures listed below:

1. Educate Your Staff

Most phishing e-mails appear so legitimate that your employees are likely to open the attachment or embedded link without verifying the sender's e-mail id or the information in the message's body.

Create cybersecurity awareness among your employees to help them identify unauthenticated e-mails. Tell them to double-check the sender's e-mail address and look for grammatical errors or unusual requests. If they suspect anything, they should immediately get in touch with the IT team instead of forwarding the e-mail to co-workers.

2. Encrypt and Backup Data

You must use full-disk encryption software to encrypt all sensitive data of your company, customers, and employees.

It is also always a good idea to take a system backup of your databases, files, and databases at regular intervals.

The general rule of backup is 3-2-1: create at least three copies, two of which should be on different mediums (devices/cloud), and one copy should be off-site for disaster recovery.

3. Fortify Cybersecurity Policy for Remote Working

It is crucial to create a strict rulebook for your employees, laying down the protocol for using home computing devices and internet connection. They should use a secure internet connection, avoid the use of office devices for personal use, and store official files/information only on company storage systems.

Also, make sure that your company implements robust firewall rules and multi-layer authentication for VPN, critical business systems, and any other remote network connections. Let your employees know the company-approved applications and collaboration tools they have to use.

4. Use Anti-Virus Solutions

This may sound like basic security protocol, but it is extremely important to install sophisticated and trustworthy anti-virus software on your company servers and devices.

5. Secure Your Web and Mobile Applications

With COVID-19 pushing the world to embrace digital on every front, your mobile applications are more at risk from cyber threats and security violations. Hence, you must proactively monitor application security risks and take preventive measures to mitigate them.

You can do so by implementing AppTrana (https://www.indusface.com/web-application-firewall.php?utm_source=hackernews-article&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=hackernews-article-%20how-to-defend-against-scams-phishing-and-malware-during-the-covid-19-crisis), a risk-based, fully managed application security solution offered by Indusface. AppTrana provides real-time protection against OWASP exploits, DDOS attacks, Bot Mitigation, and Zero-Day attacks.

You can also consider Indusface WAS (https://www.indusface.com/web-application-scanning.php?utm_source=hackernews-article&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=hackernews-article-%20how-to-defend-against-scams-phishing-and-malware-during-the-covid-19-crisis), which is a comprehensive web application vulnerability detection solution. It provides Automated DAST Scanner combined with on-demand Manual Penetration Testing

(https://www.indusface.com/blog/types-of-penetration-testing/?utm_source=hackernews-article&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=hackernews-article-%20how-to-defend-against-scams-phishing-and-malware-during-the-covid-19-crisis) and false-positive removal via manual verification.

If you are looking for mobile security solutions, then Indusface MAS runs in-depth Pen-testing with multiplatform coverage, including iOS, Android, and Windows, for vulnerability detection.

Conclusion


COVID-19 has put the pressing need on organizations to re-strategize their cybersecurity policy to keep digital threats at bay.

It is also essential to understand that cyber threats are here to stay even after the ongoing pandemic because global digital usage is expected to increase continuously in the coming years.

Hence, it would help if you get prepared on all fronts to combat the cyber-attacks effectively.

Note: We extend our Thanks to Marvin Stein, Division 2 leader, for this information and article.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 RACES Meeting 7:30pm (ZOOM)	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17		19	20	21	22	23
25	25	26	27	28 Division 2 Meeting 7:30pm	29	30
31						

Important CERT Dates

RACES Meeting



January 7
ZOOM
Time: 7:30 pm

Division 2 Meeting

January 28
7:30pm
(Meeting Details will be sent)



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	 HAPPY Groundhog Day	3	4 RACES Meeting 7:30pm (ZOOM)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday (OEM Office Closed)	13
 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Presidents' Day (OEM Office Closed)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Important CERT Dates

RACES Meeting

February 4th

Time: 7:30 pm

(ZOOM)



Nassau County CERT Coordinator

Bob Chiz & Rick Delucia

oemcert@nassaucountyny.gov

CERT Deputy Director

Paul Shapiro

pshapiro@nassaucountyny.gov

CERT Section Chiefs

Paul Shapiro

Logistics

Jeffrey Sliva

Operations

David Sobolow

Planning

Admin/Finance

Division 1

Division Supervisor

Bill Pavone

nassaucertdiv1@yahoo.com

Division 2

Division Supervisor

Marvin Stein

mstein@optonline.net

