



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 2021

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

With Californians relying on virtual participation at work, school and in so many other aspects of daily life during these unprecedented times, it is more important than ever that we protect our privacy and safety by making cybersecurity a priority. Enhancing our collective cybersecurity efforts is also imperative for safeguarding the state's critical infrastructure, the intellectual property of our businesses and educational institutions and our status as one of the world's leading economies.

California is taking action to build a more secure cyber environment for businesses, critical infrastructure, government and individuals. The state budget includes \$11.3 million one-time and \$38.8 million ongoing to mature the state's overall security posture, improve statewide information security initiatives, analyze cyber threat intelligence and mitigate potential threats, and we have advanced \$260 million in recent investments at the Department of Technology and other state entities to bolster the state's ability to prevent and respond to cyberattacks. In addition, the State's Cybersecurity Task Force has been working with partners in academia to develop cybersecurity degree and certification programs and events to fill the employment pipeline with qualified technology security professionals.

This October, the California Virtual Cybersecurity Education Summit will host cybersecurity professionals from every sector to discuss and learn new ways to improve our security posture. And as CyberStart America launches a new season of its scholarship program, I encourage every school in the state to register students to participate in this opportunity to expand their cybersecurity knowledge and win money to facilitate continuing education in the cybersecurity field.

During Cybersecurity Awareness Month, California is joining with other states, the federal government, academic institutions, private sector partners and the National Cyber Security Alliance to encourage Californians to implement digital privacy and security best practices in their daily life. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, and we must all remain vigilant when online to protect ourselves, our families and workplaces. I encourage all Californians to learn about steps we can take to stay safe online at <https://cdt.ca.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom