OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 2023

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

In an increasingly digital world, it is crucial for all of us to prioritize online safety and privacy. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility that government agencies, businesses, public and private organizations and individuals must keep top of mind in the face of ever-evolving online threats and challenges.

The State of California plays a vital role in identifying and responding to cybersecurity threats that endanger critical infrastructure our state relies on, including for financial services, educational institutions, energy, telecommunications, transportation, emergency response systems and more. The California Cybersecurity Integration Center, co-led by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Technology, was established in 2018 to enhance and protect California's cybersecurity ecosystem.

Californians can take simple steps to protect against phishing, viruses and malware, including by monitoring online accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, and installing antivirus programs and firewalls. The [Cybersecurity Framework](#) by the National Institute of Standards and Technology is a free resource available to help organizations – large and small, public and private – improve their cybersecurity practices.

California joins the federal government, other states, the National Cyber Security Alliance and partners across many sectors to recognize this October as the 20th Cybersecurity Awareness Month. I urge all Californians to educate themselves on the steps we can take to reduce online risks and protect our individual and collective safety.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom