AssuredPartners
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Beware of Increased Phishing Attempts

Criminals – phishers, scammers, and the other dregs of our information economy – see the spread of Covid-19 and our increased dependence on virtual communication as an opportunity to prey upon our heightened emotion for their own ill-gotten gains. You can help thwart these attempts by being vigilant and taking the following steps:

- **Utilize Available Resources**. Consider reviewing and/or updating your email security settings. If you do not already use "external email" tags, URL tracking and additional scrutiny on attachments, then considering implementing such measures. Once an email reaches your inbox you should.
- **Pay Attention**. Often times criminals will utilize email addresses and/or names that are similar to known and trusted sources. Also, these criminals are – unsurprisingly – often lazy, sloppy or a combination of the two and their messages will contain spelling and grammatical errors and/or be incredibly generic. If you receive an email from an unknown source and/or the message is sloppy and generic, you should…
- **Verify**. Rarely, if ever, will a registered investment advisor, record keeper, or banking institution request your personal information in an unsolicited email, phone call, or social media message. If you receive a request and are unsure about its authenticity, then call the relevant institution through a trusted phone number and verify the email, phone call, or social media message before responding.

By taking the common-sense steps outlined above you can help protect yourself, your clients, and your employees from these criminals. If you, your clients or your employees have received a message from your registered investment advisor, record keeper, and/or banking institution that you believe to by fraudulent, then please reach out to your investment advisor representative through a trusted phone number or email address. Alternatively, if you have questions about how AssuredPartners can help you navigate your 401(k) plan through these trying times, then please reach out to your AssuredPartners professional and we will connect you with an investment advisor specializing in 401(k) plan management.
