Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Cybersecurity Management Office

2025 Holiday Season: 'Tis the Season to be Careful

As the holidays approach, email inboxes fill with festive greetings, shipping alerts, and seasonal promotions - but not all of them are merry and bright. Cybercriminals know this is prime time to exploit our generosity, urgency, and distraction. Whether it's a fake delivery notice or a too-good-to-be-true gift card offer, scams are increasingly sophisticated and often target both work and personal email. Stay sharp and protect yourself by knowing what to look for and how to respond.

Recognize the Common Signs

- Shipping alerts coming to work email
- Urgent or emotionally appealing language
- Untrusted shortened URLs (i.e. "tinyurl)
- Email addresses that do not match the supposed sender
- Requests to send personal or financial information
- Poor writing/misspellings
- Unexpected attachments

Resist and report suspicious messages by using the Mimecast reporting feature. Don't reply or click on any attachment or link, including any "unsubscribe" link. The unsubscribe button could also carry a link used for phishing.

Being aware and mindful of these tactics will help protect you and our community from the elevated threat landscape.

For any questions or concerns please contact us cybersecurity@cshl.edu.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!