CISA Issues 'Shields Up' Notice

Executive Summary

Every organization in the United States is at risk from cyber threats that can disrupt essential services and potentially result in impacts to public safety. Over the past year, cyber incidents have impacted many companies, non-profits, and other organizations, large and small, across multiple sectors of the economy. While there are not currently any specific credible threats to the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, we are mindful of the potential for the Russian government to consider escalating its destabilizing actions in ways that may impact others outside of Ukraine. Based on this situation, CISA has been working closely with its critical infrastructure partners over the past several months to ensure awareness of potential threats—part of a paradigm shift from being reactive to being proactive.

Report

SHIELDS UP
https://www.cisa.gov/shields-up

Impact to HPH Sector

CISA recommends all organizations—regardless of size—adopt a heightened posture when it comes to cybersecurity and protecting their most critical assets. Recommended actions include:

- **Reduce the likelihood of a damaging cyber intrusion**
  - Use multi-factor authentication and keep all operating systems and software up to date.
  - Consider signing up for CISA's cyber hygiene services.
- **Take steps to quickly detect a potential intrusion**
  - Update antivirus software and focus on identifying unusual network behavior.
- **Ensure that the organization is prepared to respond if an intrusion occurs**
  - Designate a crisis-response team and assure availability of key personnel.
- **Maximize the organization's resilience to a destructive cyber incident**
  - Establish a robust data backup program and ensure all backup data is encrypted.

U.S. organizations should report incidents immediately to the FBI at a local FBI Field Office, CISA at us-cert.cisa.gov/report, or the U.S. Secret Service at a U.S. Secret Service Field Office.

References

Links to numerous additional references and resources can be found in the above referenced report.

Contact Information

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at HC3@hhs.gov.

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