To EHSD Staff on Behalf of the **Office of the CIO, Department of Information Technology**

The County is currently experiencing a phishing attack as described below. Please instruct your staff to not click on any links that are similar to the one shown below from this threat actor. DoIT has blocked the sender.

Phishing Attacks Continue

Ongoing phishing attacks target County staff

Please be advised that ongoing phishing attacks are targeting Contra Costa County. This message contains an example of an attack seen today.

What is "phishing"?

Phishing emails look like they came from a person or organization you trust, but in reality they're sent by hackers to get you to click on or open something that will give the hackers access to your information.

Why are you at risk?

As a result of escalating international tensions, local governments are increasingly at risk of phishing attacks. Hackers are actively targeting Contra Costa County because we have information that is valuable to them. Specifically, they may be interested in our citizen, employee, patient, and financial information. Hackers may also be interested in disrupting County operations.

How to spot a phishing email

Hackers have gotten clever in how they design the emails they send out to make them look legitimate. But phishing emails often have the following characteristics:

- Ask you for sensitive information such as your username and password
- Look like they come from the HR or IT department
- Contain email addresses that don't match between the header and the body, are misspelled (like *@gmaill.com*), or have unusual formats (*@company-othersite.com*)
- Have links or email addresses that show a different destination if you hover over them
- Try to create a sense of urgency about responding

Here is an example of a phishing email targeting County employees:

What you should do if you get a suspicious email

If you suspect that an email is a phishing email:

- Do not open any links or attachments in the email
- Trust your intuition
- Ask for assistance
  - Health Services call 925-957-7272
  - EHSD call 925-521-7200
  - Other departments contact your respective IT support
- Follow any relevant departmental guidance