

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nebraska Partners with CISA in Holiday Online Shopping Campaign

NOVEMBER 30, 2020 (LINCOLN, NEB.) — The State of Nebraska is taking to social media this month, to increase awareness of safe habits for consumers who plan to do their holiday shopping online. Highlighting a public initiative led by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the State's Office of the CIO (OCIO) will focus on common risks specifically linked with holiday shopping and how to mitigate them. Follow the Nebraska OCIO on Twitter for updates (https://twitter.com/Nebraska_OCIO).

According to CISA's November 24th release, "During the holiday season, millions of Americans engage in online shopping in search of the best gifts and Cyber Monday deals." CISA leverages social distancing practices from the COVID-19 pandemic will cause even more Americans to be shopping online. "According to the Federal Trade Commission, the number of fraud reports for online shopping increased in the fourth quarter of [2019], which coincides with the holiday season. Hackers, scammers, and online thieves will be looking to take advantage of unsuspecting shoppers by searching for weaknesses in our devices or internet connections or attempting to extract personal and financial information through fake websites or charities."

Initial guidance from the federal organization includes:

- **Check your devices** – Before starting your hunt for the best deal, make sure your devices are up-to-date and all of your accounts have strong passwords. If you purchase an internet connected device or toy, change the default password and check the devices' privacy and security settings to make sure you're not sharing more information than you want.
- **Shop through trusted retailers** – Before making a purchase and providing any personal or financial information, make sure you're using a reputable, established vendor. Similarly, if you're planning to make a charitable donation, be sure to research who or where your donation is going, to ensure it's a legitimate organization.
- **Using safe methods for purchases** – If you can, use a credit card or other forms of digital payments opposed to a debit card as credit cards often have better fraud protections.

Resources:

Visit [CISA.gov/shop-safely](https://www.cisa.gov/shop-safely)

Follow https://twitter.com/Nebraska_OCIO

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