A Reminder of How to Keep Cyber Safe During COVID-19

Challenges of cyber crime are tough at any time – and now is no different. In fact, it's worse. As nations all over the world start to work from home, the hackers are still out there, and, sadly, they are sat rubbing their hands as the digital world becomes more vulnerable. They are using this swift transition, the disruption and the inevitable confusion that comes with the COVID-19 measures to their distinct advantage.

Here's a list to remind you of the steps you should be taking while working from home:

- **Company laptops only –** if you have a company laptop, use it, as it will offer a higher level of protection. It's very easy to get complacent and reach for a personal laptop just because it's to hand.

- **VPN –** if a home network isn't secure, it could compromise the whole company system. Always use a VPN to access the system.Multi-factor authentication – this should be used for all internet-accessible services, including systems you access every day, like emails.

- **Password managers –** use tools like LastPass for generating and storing secure passwords. Using the road you live on plus the year you were born in simply isn't good enough.

- **Clickbait –** hackers are pros when it comes to enticing people to click on a link. Take a moment before clicking. Question everything. If you're unsure about something, ask.

- **Screen lock –** screen locks should still be used when you're away from your desk. Why? Kids and pets. While you're making a cup of tea, all it takes is for little hands or paws to appear and click something they shouldn't.

- **Run all updates –** while bearing clickbait in mind, be sure to run all official updates for your devices. Otherwise, you are leaving them more open and vulnerable to attack.

- **Policies –** make sure you reread all the company policies surrounding remote working and cyber security – they are more relevant than ever now.

If you have **any questions or concerns** about cyber security, do **make sure you ask**. Just assuming you know the right answer could put us all in jeopardy during this already challenging time.

Let's beat the hackers together and stay cyber safe!