Staying safe at home and online: Some guidance to help you

In a world of more social and video apps and increased cyber crime, it's important to follow guidance to keep not only the RNLI's data safe, but your personal data too.

Cyber crime is on the rise and figures show that since the coronavirus outbreak there has been a 400% increase in criminal based cyber activity.

Fraudsters are impersonating companies, government bodies and are even providing fake NHS advice, and emails indicating fake tax refunds.

The IT and Information Security Team have joined forces to give the below guidance for staying cyber safe:

- Do not open emails, texts or attachments that look suspicious, their address heading can help give them away.
- Don’t recycle passwords – have different passwords for your various online accounts.
- When setting a password, keep it unrelated to your personal information and avoid using obvious family names, pets, hobbies etc.
- Never ever tell anyone your full password or security details.
- Change your passwords regularly.
- Do not provide personal details unless you are comfortable the company will not share them, and the company is legitimate.
- When on socialising apps like Facebook, be wary of any personal information you are sharing with ‘new friends’.
- Microsoft Teams is the tool to use rather than Zoom or other solutions to keep your data and the RNLI’s data secure when using video conferencing (and file sharing).
- Anybody with an RNLI email address can use Teams. However, volunteers that do not have one can be invited to a Teams meeting (group call). Volunteers can also request that their manager creates a group meeting on their behalf and invites them
- The RNLI has extra protection with Teams. The information stays within our boundary and has extra security to stop hackers accessing our systems. It can be used for group sessions.
- **Any applications that are unsupported like Zoom, can expose you and the RNLI to data or privacy breaches that could impact you personally if you have used them on your personal accounts or if it is RNLI information that has been shared, it may in turn lead to fines from a regulatory body and damage our reputation.**

How do I access Teams?

You can use Teams on your RNLI device or on your own personal mobile – providing that you use your RNLI ID, and email address. Your participants do not need to have a RNLI email address (although all operational volunteers should have one for their training).