

## **Fraudulent emails – Significant increase expected during 2021**

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**Toronto, Canada – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** We all rely on email for much of our day-to-day personal and business communication, in addition to facilitating financial transactions, to an extent that would have been unimaginable as recently as a decade ago. This development, as with other newly developed tools, carries with it the risk of misuse and purposeful abuse.

Be assured that ISAAC International will never send email requests to any of our members (or anyone else for that matter!) requesting that you wire money, purchase online gift cards, or otherwise ask for assistance for someone that is travelling and has run into some form of border or health difficulties. In particular, and with the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is a troubling increase in the number of emails circulating worldwide purporting to be from someone you know who has “contracted COVID” and needs financial assistance. **NEVER respond to these emails, and for sure never send any money. These emails should be immediately deleted.**

ISAAC International communicates with its members directly via eblast using the Constant Contact platform, and these emails are easy to identify since the Constant Contact logo will always appear at the bottom of these emails. Legitimate individual emails from ISAAC staff will always be sent from an “isaac-online.org” email account. Beware of email accounts that purport to come from ISAAC but have return email addresses using public mail domains such as Gmail, AOL, Hotmail, Outlook, etc.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The development and now near ubiquitous nature of electronic mail (email) has been tremendously successful in facilitating greater levels of global communication, particularly for people who have complex communication needs. Most troubling amongst this is the use of email now to spread malicious software such as malware and ransomware, and even less sophisticated

use such as attempting to fraudulently impersonate another individual in an attempt to get the recipient to send money, either by way of wire transfer or purchase of online gift cards.

Please read [this article](#), which focuses on the risks ahead during 2021, specifically related to ransomware.

If any email is in doubt, please feel free to communicate with me directly at [franklin@isaac-online.org](mailto:franklin@isaac-online.org)

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*ISAAC is an international membership organization with head offices in Toronto. ISAAC's goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals without speech. ISAAC accomplishes this by sharing information and promoting innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC. Activities include hosting the ISAAC biennial conference, sponsoring projects, and offering awards and scholarships. ISAAC is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).*