

# Protecting Against Ransomware

The College received information from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) regarding “Ransomware”. Although it appears that this ‘malware’ is primarily directed at universities, hospitals or other large institutions the information, the Fact Sheet mentioned may be of interest to all members. The IPC wrote:

*In recent months, large Canadian institutions such as universities and hospitals have reported having their computer networks or systems attacked by some form of ransomware. A type of malicious software, or “malware,” ransomware encrypts files on your device or computer and then demands payment in exchange for the key needed to decrypt the files. It essentially locks you out of your data and holds the means of regaining access for ransom. Clearly, it has become an increasingly common and dangerous threat to the security of electronic records.*

*To help public institutions and healthcare facilities protect themselves, the IPC has published a new fact sheet outlining various strategies for protecting information and how to respond to an attack. The document highlights a number of administrative and technological approaches organizations may take to help ensure the security of their information. These include employee training, limiting user privileges, software protections and more.*

*This fact sheet is the first in a new series to provide institutions and organizations with information about how new and emerging technologies may affect the privacy and access rights of individuals. Each fact sheet will introduce the basic concepts and techniques of a particular technology and outline key issues to consider.*

Review the [fact sheet](#).

If you have any questions about this information, please contact the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario at [info@ipc.on.ca](mailto:info@ipc.on.ca) or 416.326.3333 / 1.800.387.0073.