

Cybersecurity has always been a team effort, not just limited to those who work in IT or security. Threats such as phishing, ransomware, and data breaches often target people rather than just technology alone. With AI now making it harder and harder to tell what is real and what isn't, our individual ability to recognize and avoid threats is more important than ever before.

Colleges in particular hold large volumes of sensitive student, financial, health, and research data while supporting open networks, distributed users, legacy infrastructure, and increasingly complex cloud environments. Of course this means that bad actors have taken notice, and the pressure for all of us to stay vigilant is on.

When we all take part in actions that help to protect our systems and data, we become more resilient as a whole. As our institutional vigilance increases, our data remains better safeguarded and cybercriminals have fewer opportunities to exploit weaknesses. By actively participating in cybersecurity educational initiatives like Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we are all supporting our ability to:

- **Protect sensitive information** by recognizing and avoiding security threats
- **Reduce the risk of cyber incidents** caused by human error
- **Help safeguard personal and organizational data** from unauthorized access
- **Support compliance** with privacy, security, and legal requirements
- **Strengthen the College's overall security culture**, making it harder for attackers to succeed
- **Improve business continuity** by helping prevent disruptions caused by cyberattacks

Thank you for doing your part to keep our College community safe and secure! As always, we're here to answer any questions you might have about cyber security and keeping your data safe. You can always reach out to ITS Client Care with your questions at 613-727-4723 ext. 5555 or at 5555@algonquincollege.com.