



Welcome to the Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity for Municipalities—a framework for helping Massachusetts municipalities improve their cybersecurity posture and protect their municipality from cyberattacks using people, process, and technology.

The purpose of defining a "minimum baseline" – the foundational level of cybersecurity municipalities should achieve – is to encourage municipalities to improve their ability to protect and defend themselves from a cyberattack, inspire collaboration, and strengthen cybersecurity resilience across Massachusetts.

Why is it important?

Technology plays a vital role in Massachusetts and in the lives of its citizens. Services once considered 'nice to have' have become required, as people have moved to working and attending school from home; and technologies like virtual meeting applications have become mainstream.

The changing role of technology has created larger threats to the information we need to live and work. That has led to an increased focus on cybersecurity and a growing need to actively protect and defend the networks and systems that hold that information.

Cyber adversaries have increased the volume of attacks, taking advantage of a crisis to find new ways to exploit information systems, and municipalities and school systems are among the most vulnerable organizations.





The Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity is made up of four goals:

Benefits

Trained and Cyber-secure Employees Reduce the risk of cybersecurity incidents by improving the training and awareness of system users.

How

- Implement annual individual employee cybersecurity awareness training
- Make it easy to do the training
- Put incentives in place to get it done

Benefits

Improved Threat Sharing Respond faster to threats and improve regional awareness and resilience by sharing cyber threat information.

How

- Sign up for threat-sharing alerts from MS-ISAC (it's FREE)
- Get to know your neighboring towns
- Join a regional IT group through the EOTSS Office of Municipal and School Technology

Benefits

Cyber Incident Response Planning Strengthen municipal defenses and minimize cyber incident impacts by creating an effective strategy for handling cyber incidents.

How

 Use the tools and resources at <u>MassCyberCenter.org</u> to create a cyber incident response plan to protect against and respond to a cyberattack

Benefits

Secure Technology Environment and Best Practices Reduce the threat of cybersecurity incidents and minimize incident impacts by implementing some basic best practices to make your technology environment more secure.

How

There are many best practices listed in the resources. Here are a few to get started:

- Require strong passwords
- Backup critical data and systems
- Update and patch systems regularly
- Do annual vulnerability assessments