



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2026

As previously reported, Rusk County experienced a cybersecurity incident that impacted certain parts of its network environment in March of 2026. Upon detection, we engaged with a team of forensic experts to fully understand the extent and implications of the incident and to restore operations within a safe and remediated network environment.

In response to the incident, the County has implemented a series of enhancements to its cybersecurity posture, including expanded safeguards and the engagement of an external IT expert, to further strengthen its overall security environment moving forward.

Although the internal investigation is still underway, the County has identified that the incident may have involved certain personal information belonging to a limited subset of individuals. Rusk County will be providing written notification letters, on a rolling basis, to those who may be affected as additional information becomes available.

The County has not received any reports of related identity theft since discovery of the incident. However, for those who would like to take proactive measures out of an abundance of caution, we recommend the following steps as general cybersecurity recommendations:

1. Change your passwords. It's a good idea to keep changing your password on a regular basis. Passwords should be strong, secure, and unique, and you should have multiple "passwords," not just one. Do not use the same password for all of your online accounts.
2. Sign up for two-factor authentication. Sign up for two-factor authentication (also known as "2FA" or "two-step verification") wherever possible. This is an added layer of security for your account logins, and many services, such as Gmail and Facebook, now offer it. With two-factor authentication, your online account will require you to enter an additional level of identification to access your account – such as a code texted to your phone.
3. Do not save or "cache" credentials on your devices. Turn off password saving functions that auto-fill username and password information.
4. Watch your accounts. It is essential to be vigilant and pay extra attention to your account activity – this includes your bank account and other financial accounts.

You may also place a security freeze on your credit reports, free of charge. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing or other services. You must place your request for a freeze with each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax (www.equifax.com); Experian (www.experian.com); and TransUnion (www.transunion.com).

Please be assured that we are sparing no effort to continue to allow us to provide the highest level of service to our community. Rusk County remains fully committed to the protection of community information, systems security, and data privacy.