

March 2026 Phishing Scenario Results

OIT's March phishing simulation email was titled, *Final Notice: Complete Verification*. This scenario included terms such as "immediate verification" and "ACTION REQUIRED" to create an artificial panic and trick employees into clicking on the link and complying with the request.

Clues to Spot in this Scenario:

Unknown Sender

- The sending email address was support@itpatches.com. This is an unknown sender, not associated with MC, and should not be trusted for action to be taken on any of your MC accounts.

What to do: Always [report](#) emails from an unexpected and unknown sender, especially one implying urgency. Please make note that changes, updates, IT alerts, and announcements regarding MC accounts, applications, and systems are communicated via the ITCommunications@montgomerycollege.edu and ITUrgent@montgomerycollege.edu sending addresses.

Urgency - Scare Tactics

- Emails that threaten negative consequences for inaction should be treated with suspicion. This email notes "ACTION REQUIRED" in all capital letters, bold text, (red font) to capture your urgent attention.
- Additional urgency mentions include – "Final notice...", and "Verification deadline 24 hours"

What to do: This phishing email gave multiple urgency warnings to throw you off guard. Pause, reread, and report. Do not react. Let your brain catch up to your emotions!

View the full scenario here (Lisa will insert link when ready)

Good News

823 employees reported the phishing scenario. Great job MC!

Opportunities for Improvement

110 clicked the link; of those, **49** submitted their login credentials.

If you suspect an email may be a phishing attempt, let IT Security analyze the email for you by [REPORTING](#) the email using the report phishing button.

From: Technical Support <support@itpatches.com>

Subject: I Verify Your Email Address [x.employee@montgomerycollege.edu](#)

ACTION REQUIRED

Final Notice: Complete Verification

Our system requires immediate verification of your account [x.employee@montgomerycollege.edu](#) to prevent service interruption. This is mandatory for all users.

Verification Deadline: 24 Hours

Failure to verify will result in temporary account restrictions.

[Complete Verification x.employee@montgomerycollege.edu](#)

This is a service notification for [x.employee@montgomerycollege.edu](#) for the security of your account **DO NOT** this email

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