

Reopening the office

The cybersecurity and data protection essentials: a phased approach

01 Physical security

Make sure that physical security controls, employee identification and physical media are all up to date and fully operable

02 Data protection and privacy

Seek the advice of your Data Protection Officer or Privacy Officer on impact of changes made to existing processes or new processes where data is recorded and collated. Conduct Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) where relevant

03 Asset management

Re-evaluate bring your own device (BYOD) policies and ensure that all non-inventoried assets are correctly logged

04 Access control

Ensure credentials like multi-factor authentication (MFA) and password expiration and reset are all up to date

05 Network security

Remote access is still important during a phased return to work, so keep network services such as Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) available and secure

06 Operations security

Organizations should re-evaluate any configurations they made during the work from home period to ensure that they are still the most effective

07 Vulnerability management

Patching is a challenge even for an information resilient organization. In returning to the office, organizations must evaluate their patch posture, and where found wanting prioritization patching

08 Business continuity

It is now time to learn from recent activities – the remote working paradigm – and apply the acquired knowledge to improve the readiness of the business continuity plan

09 Incident management

Incident response represents the last line of defence should an attack materialize. Make sure your organization is set up in preparing for and responding to a data breach

10 Security governance

Risk Registers should be reassessed given the newly restructured threat landscape and control plane