

## **Virus Prevention**

### **Take the following steps to help prevent infection on your computer:**

- Enable the firewall on your computer.
- Get the latest computer updates for all your installed software.
- Use up-to-date antivirus software.
- Use caution when opening attachments.
- Use caution when clicking on links to webpages.
- Use strong passwords.

### **Enable the built-in firewall on your computer**

- [How to turn on the Windows Firewall in Windows 7](#)
- [How to turn on the Windows Firewall in Windows Vista](#)
- [How to turn on the Windows firewall in Windows XP](#)

### **Get the latest computer updates**

Use the Automatic Updates feature in Windows to automatically download future Microsoft security updates while your computer is on and connected to the Internet.

- [How to turn on Automatic Updates in Windows 7](#)
- [How to turn on Automatic Updates in Windows Vista](#)
- [How to turn on Automatic Updates in Windows XP](#)

### **Use up-to-date antivirus software**

Most antivirus software can detect and prevent infection by known malicious software. To help protect you from infection, you should always run antivirus software, such as [Microsoft Security Essentials](#), that is updated with the latest signature files.

### **Use caution when opening attachments and accepting file transfers**

Exercise caution with email and attachments received from unknown sources, or received unexpectedly from known sources. Use extreme caution when accepting file transfers from known or unknown sources.

### **Use caution when clicking on links to webpages**

Exercise caution with links to webpages that you receive from unknown sources, especially if the links are to a webpage that you are not familiar with, unsure of the destination of, or suspicious of. Malicious software may be installed in your computer simply by visiting a webpage with harmful content.

### **Use strong passwords**

Attackers may try to gain access to your Windows account by guessing your password. It is therefore important that you use a strong password – one that cannot be easily guessed by an attacker. A strong password is one that has at least eight characters, and combines letters, numbers, and symbols. For more information, see <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/create.mspx>.