What is Ransomware? AND How can I prevent and protect against these attacks?

Ransomware is a type of computer attack that will prevent or limit you from accessing your computer or files, either by locking the screen or by locking your files unless a ransom is paid. Some healthcare organizations have experienced significant operational impact after being compromised by Ransomware attacks.

How Do I Defend Against Ransomware?
There is no foolproof method, however there are steps you can take to lessen the likelihood of becoming a victim. Be cautious on the Internet. You should:
• Avoid opening suspicious emails, opening unexpected attachments, or clicking links embedded in an email message.
• Avoid malicious or compromised websites. If it seems suspicious or the URL doesn't look right don't go there. If you are ever unsure don't click it.
• Regularly back up your data to Penn Medicine IS managed network shares.

What If I Become A Victim?
If you think your computer has been compromised by any type of malware including ransomware:
1. Leave the computer powered on.
2. Physically disconnect your network cable from the computer.
   a. If using wireless, disconnect it.
3. If you are UPHS staff: Contact the Service Desk: 215-662-7474
   For Perelman School of Medicine staff: Contact your local support provider.