

# Are you properly inoculated?

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Computer virus infections are a fact of life for Ontario lawyers. For this reason, every computer in every law office should have antivirus software installed on it. However, to be fully protected you need to do more. You must also make sure your *virus definition file* is up-to-date.

A virus definition file contains virus profiles for each of several thousand known viruses. The antivirus software uses the data in these profiles to recognize when an e-mail attachment or file on your hard drive is infected.

New viruses are created on a daily basis. This creates a problem because your antivirus software may not recognize a virus that is not profiled in the virus definition file installed on your computer.

When a new virus is identified, the antivirus software companies add its profile to their virus definition file. Updated virus definition files are available for download on most antivirus software web sites. To be fully protected, you should have the most up-to-date virus definition file installed on your computer. You can do this manually. However, most antivirus programs include an auto-update feature that enables the program to automatically download and install updated virus definition files. You should check your antivirus program and make sure this feature is enabled.

Most antivirus software Web sites contain instructions for downloading updated virus definition files, and how to configure the automatic update feature. Set aside some time to make sure your computers are fully protected.



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