

Protect your personal information

DRS encourages you to follow recommended practices for protecting your personal information and safeguarding yourself against identity theft. One of the easiest ways for an identity thief to steal your personal information is to simply ask you for it.

Email, text and phone call scams (known as “phishing” or “vishing”) increase during income tax season. Help avoid identity theft by watching for these scams. Phishing scams often use emails, texts or phone calls to gather important data.

Clicking on a link in a phishing message can be harmful to your computer or mobile device. Some emails and text messages link to dangerous software that may infect your device and capture your personal data.

Scammers often try to pose as financial institutions to scare you into providing information. The safest way to check the legitimacy of a request is to access the company or organization directly, using an address or phone number from the organization’s contact information, such as that listed on its website.

If you have an online account through the organization, log into your account directly to make any requested changes or updates. Oftentimes, if an organization is requesting information, they will post a message about it inside your account so you know it’s official.

For resources to protect you from tax-related scams, visit the [IRS website](https://irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scamsconsumer-alerts) (irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scamsconsumer-alerts). For tips and guidance on protecting your personal information, see the state Attorney General’s [Consumer Protection website](https://atg.wa.gov/protecting-personal-information) (atg.wa.gov/protecting-personal-information).



How secure are DRS accounts?

The state of Washington takes *security standards seriously, as does DRS* (ocio.wa.gov/policies/141-securing-information-technology-assets). Computer networks are continuously monitored by security experts who watch for any sign of vulnerability.

The computer networks used to send and receive your retirement account information have a full range of security controls (multiple firewalls, anti-virus protections and others) to ensure your data is protected. Likewise, your login credentials (such as your ID and password) and the information within your account are encrypted.

All DRS employees are trained in best practices for securing your account information and understanding the threats to your personal information.

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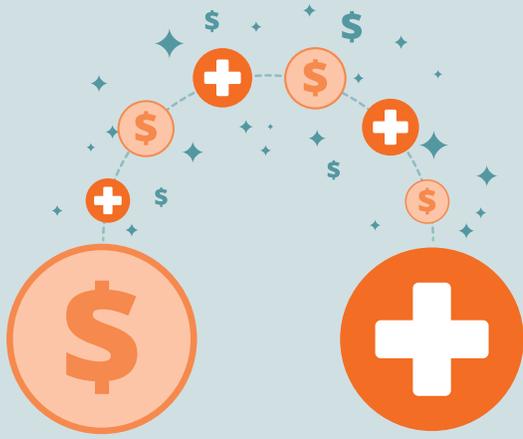
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New online tool lets patients compare health care costs

The state's *HealthCare Compare website* (wahealthcarecompare.com) was created to help Washington residents make better health care decisions. In addition to information on providers and facilities, you can compare cost and quality for medical procedures.

To learn more, visit the HealthCare Compare website or *check out this article* on the governor's Medium website (medium.com/wagovernor/washington-launches-new-online-tool-that-lets-patients-easily-compare-prices-for-medical-procedures-a54e78b74be9).

DRS financial reports available

The DRS 2018 *Summary Annual Financial Report* is now available. The SAFR provides a summary of DRS financial, membership and investment information. For a more in-depth look at DRS financial information, you can also access the 2018 *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (www.drs.wa.gov/administration/annual-report).

Legislative updates

The 2019 legislative session begins Monday, Jan. 14. During the session, DRS maintains a list of pension-related bills as they are introduced. Visit the *legislation page* (drs.wa.gov/legislative) on the DRS website to learn more.

If you haven't yet signed up for *DRS email updates*, (drs.wa.gov/updates) be sure to do so and you'll be notified any time there's an addition to the legislative page.



Retirees ask:
Why did my monthly benefit amount change in January?

If your benefit amount has changed with the new year, it is usually because of insurance premiums or federal income tax withholdings.

Your online account makes it easy to track savings, make changes

Have you signed up for your *online account* (drs.wa.gov/oa) yet? If not, consider doing so. You can sign up or log in on the DRS home page. Your online account is a convenient way to:

- Sign up for direct deposit
- Update your address information
- Get copies of 1099-Rs
- Send secure messages to DRS
- Access annual statements
- Track your return-to-work hours

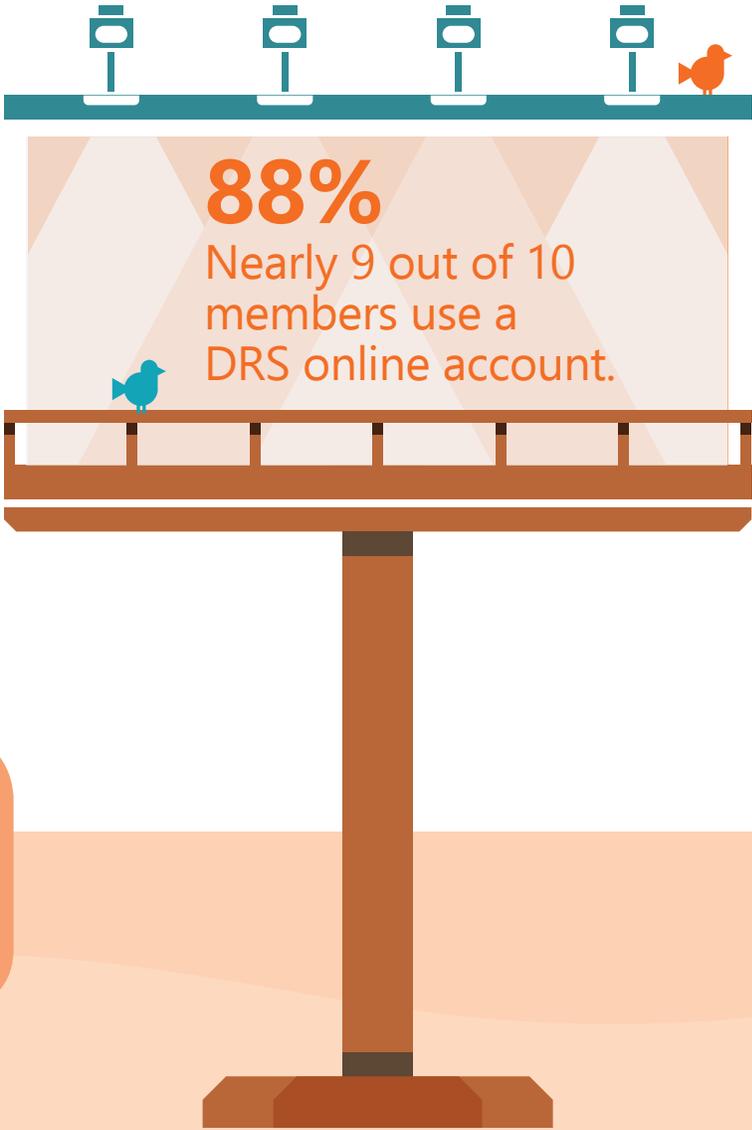
You can also easily manage your investments in Deferred Compensation Program (DCP).

Did you know you can send secure emails to DRS through your online retirement account? Log in at *drs.wa.gov/oa*.

2019 pension payment schedule

Want to know when your pension payment will be electronically deposited into your account? The 2019 Benefit Payment Schedule is listed below and is *available online* (drs.wa.gov/publications/retiree/benefitpaymentschedule.htm). Haven't signed up for direct deposit? You can easily do so in your *online account* (drs.wa.gov/oa).

Celebrate your pension payday every month on Facebook! DRS posts a reminder each payday. We also share resources and information that may be important to you in retirement. Visit *facebook.com/WADRS*.



2019 electronic deposit dates	
January 31	July 31
February 28	August 30
March 29	September 30
April 30	October 31
May 31	November 27
June 28	December 31



1099-R tax form available online Jan. 24

Looking for your 1099-R form for tax purposes? Beginning Jan. 24 you can access it by signing in to your *retirement account* (drs.wa.gov/oa) and then selecting the 1099R link from the main menu. From there you can view it or print a copy. Hard copies of the form will be mailed by the end of January.

For Plan 3 and DCP members, starting Feb. 1, any additional 1099-R forms for your investment accounts will be available under “Statements and Documents” when you select your plan from your online account.