Office of Cybersecurity at UW–Madison stated that there are risks associated with downloading any app on to a cell phone. The Office recommends users take the following additional steps to use WhatsApp safely:

1. **Two-Step Verification**
   a. Open WhatsApp
   b. Tap on the **Settings** tab
   c. Tap **Account**
   d. Tap **Two-step verification** and tap **Enable**.
   e. Enter a **six-digit PIN** of your choice and type it again to confirm it.
   f. If you want WhatsApp to send you an email to reset your PIN when you forget it, type your email address here and follow steps g and h. Tap **Skip** if you don’t want to add an email address.
   g. Tap **Next**.
   h. Confirm the email address and tap **Save** or **Done**.

2. **Change WhatsApp group access from “Everyone” to “My Contacts”**
   a. Open WhatsApp
   b. Tap on the **Status** tab
   c. Tap on **Privacy**
   d. Tap on **“My contacts”** and click **“DONE”**.

Here are other ways you can use WhatsApp and your phone safely:

**Installing WhatsApp Updates**

**Android**
   a. Go to the Google Play Store and search for **WhatsApp Messenger**.
   b. Tap **Update** next to WhatsApp Messenger.

**iPhone**
   a. Go to the App Store and search for **WhatsApp Messenger**.
   b. Tap **UPDATE** next to WhatsApp Messenger.

**Installing Smartphone Operating System Updates**

- For Android, click this link and follow the instruction: [https://support.google.com/android/answer/7680439?hl=en](https://support.google.com/android/answer/7680439?hl=en)
- For iPhone, click this link and follow the instruction: [https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/update-ios-iph3e504502/ios](https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/update-ios-iph3e504502/ios)

Please email Jzong Thao at [jzong.thao@wisc.edu](mailto:jzong.thao@wisc.edu) to remove your phone number from the list if you no longer wish to receive WhatsApp messages from us.