

Tips & Advice

Issue XII

Coronavirus/COVID-19 & Scams

Criminals are taking advantage of the fear and uncertainty that has been created by the coronavirus/COVID-19. Scams come in many forms, but they all want either your money or your information in order to obtain your money. These scams will especially be on the rise due to the current economic uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 Virus as well as with the recent passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Economic Rescue Bill or the “Cares Act”.

We have listed a few key points that will help to protect you from scammers, as well as some links to websites that provide additional information and how to stay safe!

1. **Hang up on robocalls.** Do not press on any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home scams.
2. **Fact check information.** Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before passing any information along, contact a trusted source (e.g. Center for Disease Control and Prevention or CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or World Health Organization or WHO <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>).
3. **Know who you are buying from.** Online sellers may claim to have in-demand products like cleaning, household and medical supplies when, in fact, they do not.
4. **Do not respond to text and emails about stimulus checks from the government.** The government will not contact you through either option.
5. **A few additional things to keep in mind.** The government will NOT ask you to pay anything up front to receive the stimulus check – no fees or charges. The government will also NOT ask you for your social security number, bank account number or credit card numbers.

For more information, please visit this site:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>



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Sources: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>

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