



## BEWARE OF COVID-19 SCAMS

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### Overview

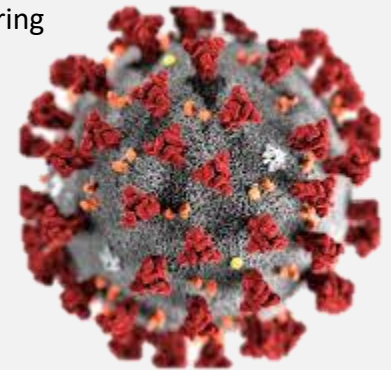
Bad actors are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to scam others. While we all need to use caution in our digital interactions, we need to pay special attention to scams that use the pandemic and fear to catch you off guard.

The following are several scams you should be aware of.

**Contract Tracing Scams:** Beware of offers of contract tracing. Legitimate tracers need health information, not money or personal financial information.

**Government Spoofing Scams:** Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about checks appearing or claiming to be from the government. Malicious actors are taking advantage of government stimulus programs to gain access to unsuspecting citizens' personal information and/or financial accounts.

**Testing / Treatment Scams:** Beware of offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work. Also, be on the lookout for test kits being advertised, as they have most likely not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and aren't necessarily accurate.



**Phishing Scams:** Watch for emails claiming to be from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or World Health Organization (WHO). Use sites like [coronavirus.gov](https://coronavirus.gov) and [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://usa.gov/coronavirus) to get the latest information and don't click on links from sources you don't know.

**Donation / Charity Scams** - Do your homework when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money. Here are some organizations you can use to help determine the legitimacy of a charitable organization:

- BBB Wise Giving Alliance (<https://www.give.org/>)
- Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>)
- CharityWatch (<https://www.charitywatch.org/>)
- GuideStar (<https://www.guidestar.org/>)

**"Person in need" Scams:** Malicious actors could use the pandemic to pose as a relative or friend who claims to be sick, stranded away from home, and in need of money. Using a sense of urgency, these scammers usually ask you to send cash or gift cards. They also stress to keep your actions secret and to act quickly before you have time to ask questions.

There are and will be new scams using the pandemic to take advantage of unsuspecting souls. Beware, use caution, and verify before you act.