



COVID -19 Scams

As the nation faces the current coronavirus concern, scammers are already finding ways to take advantage of us. A common tactic for these criminals is using fear to elicit a reaction from their would-be victims. The most common scams surrounding coronavirus are:

- **Medicare Test Kits:** Medicare will NOT call asking if you want test kits. This is an attempt to get your money and/or private information.
- **Fake Cures:** There is currently no cure or vaccine to treat coronavirus. Any claims that suggest otherwise are 100% false.
- **Impersonations:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) does not go door-to-door gathering information about infectious diseases. If you encounter a person claiming to be from the CDC, contact your local police department.
- **Stimulus Checks:** There are reports that people have been receiving phone calls and texts about the government stimulus payment to citizens during the COVID-19 situation. This is a scam trying to get your private information and/or get you to pay a small fee in order to receive it.
- **Phishing emails:** Recently, the Secret Service issued a warning about emails that appear to be sent from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The email contains a link that does NOT connect to the CDC. It is best to avoid opening emails from senders that you do not know.
- **Counterfeit products/price gouging:** Many consumers have reported false product descriptions and increased prices while shopping online. It is best to read reviews and look into the seller's history before clicking "buy now".
- **Phony fundraisers:** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) suggests researching charities before donating. You can verify nonprofits at [GivingMatters.com](https://www.givingmatters.com).