

# COVID-19 Scams

## Fact Sheet

## Center for Eldercare and Rehabilitation Technology

### COVID19

#### Symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell or taste

#### How to Protect Yourself:

- Clean your hands often
- Avoid close contact
- Cover your mouth and nose when around others
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect

#### Official Information Sources:

- [muhealth.org](https://www.muhealth.org)
- [como.gov](https://www.como.gov)
- [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

## Some examples of COVID-19 scams include:

**Treatment scams:** Scammers are offering to sell fake cures, vaccines, and advice on unproven treatments for COVID-19.

**Supply scams:** Scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts, and email addresses claiming to sell medical supplies currently in high demand, such as surgical masks.

**Provider scams:** Scammers are also contacting people by phone and email, pretending to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend or relative for COVID-19, and demanding payment for that treatment.

**Charity scams:** Scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19.

**Phishing scams:** Scammers posing as national and global health authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are sending phishing emails designed to trick recipients into downloading malware or providing personal identifying and financial information.

**App scams:** Scammers are also creating and manipulating mobile apps designed to track the spread of COVID-19 to insert malware that will compromise users' devices and personal information.

**Investment scams:** Scammers are offering online promotions on various platforms, including social media, claiming that the products or services of publicly traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure COVID-19, and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result.

(Source: US Department of Justice, 2020)

## Avoid COVID19 Scams:

**Don't respond** to texts, emails or calls about checks from the government.

**Ignore** online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There are no products proven to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time.

**Hang up** on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.

**Watch** for emails claiming to be from the CDC or WHO. Use sites like

**Never donate** in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.

**Never share** your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone

(Source: CDC, 2020; Federal Trade Commission, 2020)