



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Consumer Information

consumer.ftc.gov



**Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus.**

## Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0259-robocalls#legal>) to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls, instead.
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are trying to get you to buy products that aren't proven to treat or prevent the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the Coronavirus. Visit the FDA (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2#offeringtests>) to learn more.
- Fact-check information. Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources. Visit What the U.S. Government is Doing (<https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>) for links to federal, state and local government agencies.
- Know who you're buying from. Online sellers (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0020-shopping-online>) may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household, and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.
- Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the government (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/checks-government>). The details are still being worked out. Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer.
- Don't click on links from sources you don't know (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>). They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) (CDC) and the World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>) (WHO).
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams>) or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.