

# COVID-19 Related Scams



Scammers are exploiting the fear and isolation people are feeling during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place. Beware of scammers posing as government officials, bank employees, or health professionals. They want your money and sensitive personal information, including Social Security number, Medicare number, credit card information, and bank account information.

**Beware of Scammers**

## ***HOW SCAMMERS CAN REACH YOU!***

**Phone**

**Social Media**

**Email**

**Websites**

**In Person**

## ***COMMON SCAMS***

- Sell you fake respiratory masks, COVID-19 testing or vaccine kits, or COVID-19 cures.
- Ask for charity donations. You can look up charities at [give.org](https://www.give.org) or [charitynavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org).
- Promise direct deposit of your stimulus check.
- Tell you your Social Security check has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and try to get your personal information to verify.
- Offer “relief money” to those affected by COVID-19.
- Say a loved one has contracted COVID-19 and needs money wired for their treatment.
- Contact you pretending to be from the WHO, CDC, or a volunteer agency.
- Ask you to download a mobile app that tracks and sends you COVID-19 updates.

## ***RED FLAGS***

- A sense of urgency. Scammers will use the words “urgent”, “act now”, “important”, and “official” to pressure you into acting quickly.
- Asking for payment via wire transfer or gift cards.
- Requesting your Social Security number, Medicare number, credit card information, or bank account information

- Links from unknown or unverified sources.
- Purported government agencies contacting you by phone, email, or social media.
- Emails from personal accounts – beware of emails from Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail, AOL addresses, etc.
- Websites that look like important COVID-19 news and information sources. These sites could install malware on your computer that damage your computer or gain unauthorized access to your information.
- Unverified apps. These apps can lock your phone and steal data from your device. Only download apps with a verified publisher from Google Play or Apple Store.

***FOR COVID-19 SCAM UPDATES  
CHECK THESE SITES:***

AARP Fraud Watch — [aarp.org/money/scams-fraud](https://aarp.org/money/scams-fraud)

Better Business Bureau (BBB) — [bbb.org](https://bbb.org)

Consumer Federation Protection Bureau (CFPB) — [consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus](https://consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus)

Department of Justice (DOJ) — [justice.gov/coronavirus](https://justice.gov/coronavirus)

National Center on Law and Elder Rights: Federal, State, and Private Protections for Older Consumers Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic — [bit.ly/3a86F3d](https://bit.ly/3a86F3d)

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) — [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov)

TO REPORT ELDER ABUSE IN NEW MEXICO

***ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PHONE:***

(866) 654-3219 or (505) 476-4912

***WEBSITE:*** <https://www.caregiver.org/new-mexico-adult-protective-services-aps-and-elder-abuse-hotline>