



COVID-19 FINANCIAL SCAMS

Look out for these scams!



Stimulus Checks

Scammers offer to give you advanced or expedited access to your stimulus check if you pay an upfront fee. They take this fee, and any personally identifiable information you provided them.



Miracle Products

Scammers offer in-demand products like masks, gloves, vaccines, at home test kits, and treatments that make unsubstantiated medical claims. Either they send you the fake products, or they take your money without sending anything. May also include investment scams.



Charitable Giving

Scammers pose as fake charities to solicit donations. Scammers may also pose as a sick relative or friend in need of payments for COVID-19 related medical expenses, which are harder to verify given shelter in place conditions (also known as "person in need" scams).



Debt Forgiveness

Scammers pose as companies offering loan forgiveness for medical, student loan, or other forms of debt in exchange for an upfront payment.



Work from Home

Scammers make lucrative work-from-home job offers that require people to pay a fee to cover training and specialized equipment, or request your bank details to deposit "paychecks".



Exclusive Access

Scammers promise exclusive access to breaking medical information related to COVID-19. Through visiting the website, you download malware or computer viruses that steal your personal information.



Unemployment

Scammers offer you expedited access to unemployment benefits through paying a fee and providing your personally identifiable information. They steal both.



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Learn more about how to protect yourself!

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), as of April 15 Americans have lost \$13.5 million in fraud related to COVID-19. There have been nearly 310,000 cases of fraud, and the typical American has lost \$270. And the Securities and Exchange Commission has already suspended public trading for 16 companies for making dangerous, unsubstantiated claims about COVID-19 related products, like treatments, testing kits, or vaccines. Elderly people are particularly vulnerable to financial exploitation at this time of social distancing and sheltering in place, given that they may be experiencing increased loneliness and a desire for social connection. Visit these sites to learn more about common forms of fraud and scams:

[Federal Trade Commission on Coronavirus](#)

[IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments](#)

[Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Fraud and Scams](#)

[IRS Tax-Exempt Organization Search Tool](#)

PROTECT YOURSELF

Guard your information



Do not give out your SSN, bank account details, credit card information, or any other personally identifiable information. Remember: you don't need to give the IRS any information or payments to receive your stimulus check!



Practice digital security

Watch out for phishing emails or texts. Do not click on any links or reply. Hang up on robo-calls without speaking. Do not shop on unfamiliar or insecure websites. Keep your anti-virus software up to date.



Donate with caution

Do not make donations to anyone who wants cash, gift cards, or wired money. Research charities before making donations. Verify with other people first if a relative or friend reaches out to you asking for money.



Report scams

If you suspect you have been approached by a scammer, document any information you can about them (names, numbers, websites) and report it to the FTC here: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).