



During these difficult times, our community, our state, and our country have come together. However, there are still those who look to take advantage of you.

I want to be sure that you have the tools you need to avoid becoming the victim of a COVID-19-related scam.

How scammers use COVID-19 as to steal your identity and commit fraud:

- Phishing attempts that use COVID-19 information to lure internet users into clicking on links that allow the scammers to access and steal personal information;
- Selling fake 'at-home' COVID-19 test kits, medical treatments or 'cures';
- Promising to help you access your stimulus check from the federal government sooner;
- Posing as a charity to steal money; and
- Saying they'll send you a Coronavirus test, masks, or other items in exchange for your Medicare number or personal information.

It's important to always guard your social security number, Medicare card, and any other personally identifying number like a credit card and check your claims summary forms for errors.

How to protect yourself from scams:

- Only a doctor, or trusted healthcare provider, should assess your medical condition and approve requests for COVID-19 testing;
- Remain vigilant when receiving calls, texts, or emails claiming to have information on COVID-19 - especially if you know you did not sign up for alerts from the sender;
- Do not click on any links sent to you by an unknown sender; and
- When making charitable donations, be sure to do your research first.

- [Click here](#) to find sample audio from actual scams including:
 - Free home testing kits;
 - Scams targeting diabetics who use insulin; and
 - Coronavirus HVAC cleaning.

Check back for updates to the [FCC COVID-19 Consumer Warnings and Safety Tips webpage](#), which will be refreshed as new scams surface.

The New York State Attorney General has also put together a comprehensive webpage with additional information about consumer scams, which you can find by [clicking here](#).

Please remain vigilant during these difficult times and be sure to check in with any family members or loved ones who might be targeted by a scam to share this important information.