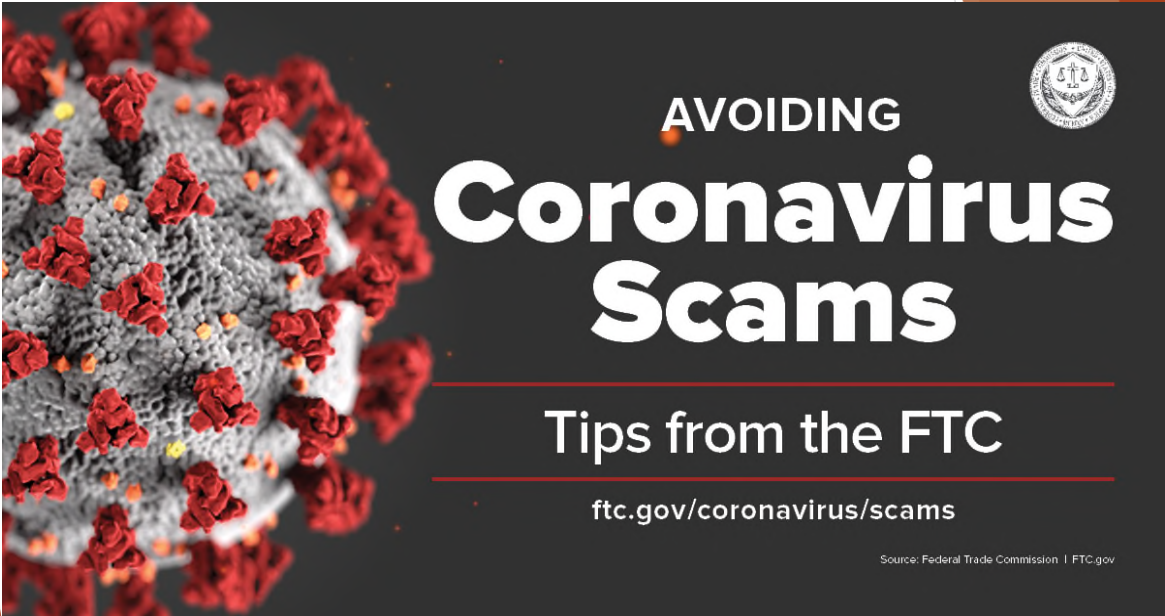


Coronavirus Scams
— What the FTC is Doing —

ftc.gov/coronavirus

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FTC Division of Consumer & Business Education

1



AVOIDING

Coronavirus Scams

Tips from the FTC

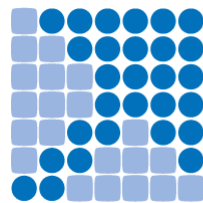
ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams

Source: Federal Trade Commission | [FTC.gov](https://ftc.gov)

2

Top COVID-related reports/complaints

- ▶ Online shopping
- ▶ Scam text messages
- ▶ Phone scams

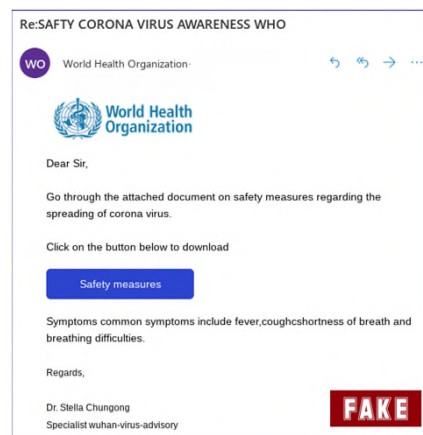


**Explore
Data**
with the FTC

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Email/text scams & malicious websites

- ▶ **Phishing emails & texts**
 - ▶ Get your money
 - ▶ Get your information
 - ▶ Links to malware sites
- ▶ **Malicious websites**
 - ▶ Lots of domains including “Coronavirus”
 - ▶ Stick with known, trusted sites
- ▶ **Don’t click links from sources you don’t know**



4

Imposter scams

- ▶ #1 fraud reported to Consumer Sentinel in 2019
- ▶ Government imposter scams:
 - ▶ Medicare
 - ▶ Relief payment messages
- ▶ Other imposters:
 - ▶ Family emergency
 - ▶ Tech support
 - ▶ Romance/Online dating
- ▶ FMI: Visit ftc.gov/imposters

Oh, the stories scammers tell . . .

Phony Social Security Administration –
“Your Social Security number has been frozen, but we’ll help you keep your money ‘safe!’”

Health & Human Services/Medicare con –
“Call now for your free back brace!”

IRS imposter – *“There’s a lawsuit against you for unpaid taxes.”*

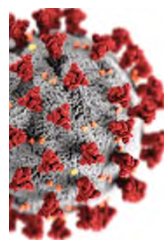
Fake government grant offer – *“You’re eligible for a government grant . . . for a fee.”*

Bogus police, sheriff, or FBI – *“There is a warrant for your arrest for failing to appear in court!”*

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Treatments & cures

- ▶ Miracle cures
- ▶ Medicare-related scams




 Coronavirus cure?
Not so fast.
 Learn the facts at
ftc.gov/coronavirus

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Contact Tracing

FTC Consumer Alerts:

- ▶ COVID-19 contact tracing text message scams
- ▶ Help COVID-19 contact tracers, not scammers

Contact tracing call? 5 things to know

A contact tracer from your state health department might call if you've been exposed to COVID-19. But scammers are pretending to be contact tracers, too. Here's how you can spot the scam.

-  **Real contact tracers won't ask you for money.**
Only scammers insist on payment by gift card, money transfer, or cryptocurrency.
-  **Contact tracing doesn't require your bank account or credit card number.**
Never share account information with anybody who contacts you asking for it.
-  **Legitimate contact tracers will never ask for your Social Security number.**
Never give any part of your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you.
-  **Your immigration status doesn't matter for contact tracing, so real tracers won't ask.**
If they do, you can bet it's a scam.
-  **Do not click on a link in a text or email.**
Doing so can download malware onto your device.

Talking to a real contact tracer helps stop the spread of COVID-19. Reporting scammers helps stop them, too. Report fake contact tracers to your state and at ftc.gov/complaint.

For more information about contact tracing visit your state health department's website and ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams

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COVID-19 Vaccines

- ▶ Vaccines will be distributed to federal- and state-approved locations.
- ▶ For most people living in the U.S., states and territories will make the final decisions on who will get the vaccines and when.
- ▶ States are also working on their own specific vaccination plans.
- ▶ Check with your state for specific information regarding distribution plans in your state.
- ▶ More information on where and how to get a COVID-19 vaccine will be available once vaccines are authorized and/or being shipped out.

Three Ways to Avoid COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

While vaccination details are getting worked out, here's what you can be sure of:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- Nobody legit will call about the vaccine and ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. **That's a scam.**

Ignore any vaccine offers that say different, or ask for personal or financial information.

Learn more at ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams or consumerresources.org/beware-coronavirus-scams

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Financial Impact Scams

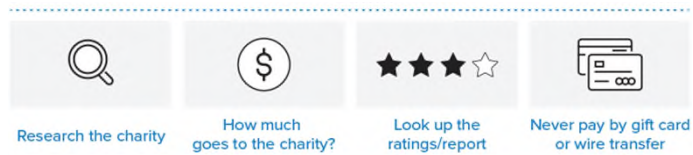
- ▶ Job scams
- ▶ Home-based business opportunities
- ▶ Debt collection
- ▶ For more information, visit ftc.gov/financialimpact



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Fake charities

- ▶ Often appear with crises
- ▶ Before you give: do your homework
- ▶ If you give, never pay by cash, gift card or money transfer.
- ▶ Visit ftc.gov/charity

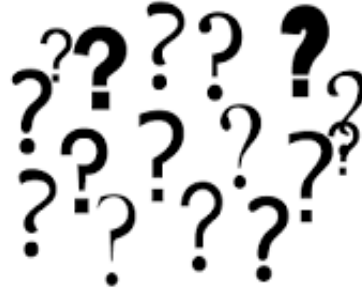


10

Misinformation & rumors

Ask yourself these 3 questions:

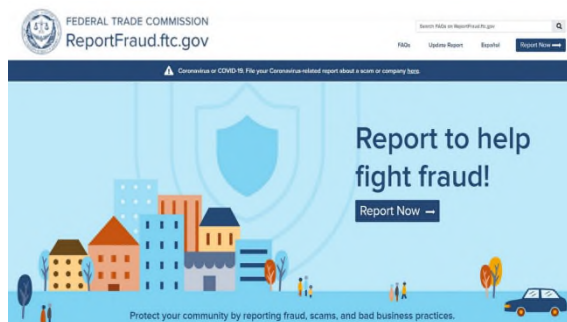
- ▶ Who is this message from?
- ▶ What do they want me to do?
- ▶ What is the evidence behind this message?
- ▶ [usa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)



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Reporting Fraud Helps Everyone

- ▶ The FTC just launched **ReportFraud.ftc.gov** – a new version of the FTC’s consumer reporting website



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Stay connected to stay informed

- ▶ For the latest news and information from the FTC:
 - ▶ Subscribe to our consumer alerts at ftc.gov/consumeralerts
 - ▶ Like us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/federaltradedecommission
 - ▶ Follow @FTC for the latest tweets from the FTC
 - ▶ Visit consumer.ftc.gov for articles, blog posts, videos, and infographics on a range of consumer topics

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