

Avoid Coronavirus Scams: FTC and DOJ guidance

Federal Trade Commission

The FTC's Coronavirus Scams resource page in English & Spanish has blogs, links to law enforcement actions, recordings of scam calls about the Coronavirus, and tips on avoiding and reporting scams, including:

- Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes.
- Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the 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. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- 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 to learn more.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities 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.

Report Coronavirus Scams

- If you spot a scam, please tell the Federal Trade Commission at FTC.gov/Complaint. Reports go into the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Database, and are shared with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.
- See data about Coronavirus-related consumer complaints submitted to the FTC at ftc.gov/exploredata.

Stay Informed About Scams

- Go to ftc.gov/coronavirus for updates
- Subscribe to get alerts for consumers and businesses about the latest scams.

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