

# COVID-19 FRAUD ALERT

As the COVID-19 continues to devastate communities across the United States, reports have surfaced that scammers have used various tactics to prey on unsuspecting individuals.

HFA wants to remind you to be safe and review the safety tips and resources below from the FCC and HHS to ensure you and your family are protected from scams:

-  Do not respond to calls or texts from suspicious unknown numbers.
-  Do not share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone.
-  Be cautious of anyone pressuring you to share personal information or submit immediate payments.
-  Scammers often spoof numbers to trick unsuspecting individuals into answering or responding. Remember government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.
-  Do not click suspicious or unknown links contained in any text messages that come from text message links. If the text message appears to come from a trusted source, be sure to call to confirm prior to opening.
-  Always confirm the existence of genuine charities (for example, by calling or looking at its actual website) prior to donating.
-  Beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for Medicare and/or Medicaid numbers.
-  Be suspicious of unexpected calls, text messages, persons offering COVID-19 tests or supplies. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.
-  Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media sites.
-  Trusted healthcare providers should assess your condition and approve requests prior to testing for COVID-19.

For more information take a look at these helpful resources.

- [FCC COVID-19 Consumer Warnings and Safety Tips](#)
- [HHS COVID-19 Fraud Alert](#)
- [FBI Sees Rise in Fraud Schemes Related to the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)
- [Coronavirus Scams: What the FTC is Doing](#)