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AVOIDING COVID-19 SCAMS

What are the common COVID-19 Scams?

- **Stimulus Check Scams**
 - Online, e-mail, or telephone requests for your personal information, your financial information or your bank information in order for you to receive your stimulus check
- **Treatment Scams**
 - Offers online, by e-mail or by telephone for a COVID-19 vaccine, treatment or cure
 - Fake “doctor” or “hospital” pretending to have treated your friend or loved one and demanding you pay for the treatment
- **“Get a Test” Scams**
 - Offers online, by e-mail or by telephone for a COVID-19 test
- **Charitable Donation Scams**
 - Requests for donations online, by e-mail or by telephone to help individuals, groups or areas affected by COVID-19
- **Supplies Scams**
 - Fake online shops, websites, social media accounts or e-mail addresses selling high demand “protective” supplies such as face masks
- **Investment Scams**
 - Fake online, social media, e-mail or telephone claims that a company’s product or service can prevent, detect or cure COVID-19 and encouraging you to invest
- **“Phishing” Scams**
 - People pretending to be from global, national, state or local health organizations or authorities like the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Center for Disease Control (CDC) trying to trick you into downloading malware or giving your personal, financial or banking information either online, by e-mail or over the telephone.
- **“App” Scams**
 - People making fake apps which they say are designed to track the spread of COVID-19, but which actually insert malware in your computer
- **Price Gouging**
 - When a seller raises the price of an item that is in short supply, like masks, food, or toilet paper

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. are non-profit law firms serving the civil legal needs of western Ohio’s low-income individuals and families. This information is not legal advice. It is general information. It is not a substitute for talking to a lawyer about your situation. You may still need help from a lawyer.

Last updated April 17, 2020

How Can I Avoid COVID-19 Scams?

- **Hang Up on Robocalls and Callers you do not know**
 - Do not press any buttons on your phone
 - Do not answer any questions – especially if the answer would be “Yes” or “No”
 - Do not give the caller any personal, financial or bank information
- **Check Before you Click**
 - Do not open e-mails or attachments from senders you do not know
 - Do not click on links you are not familiar with
 - Be Careful! Scammers will try to trick you to make you believe a website or an-e-mail comes from a government authority or health organization. **Don't be fooled** by fake addresses. **The CDC website is [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)**. Scammers will use fake addresses like cdc.com or cdc.org
- **Ignore Offers for a COVID-19 Vaccine, Cure, Treatment or Test**
 - Do not respond to online, e-mail or telephone offers. You will not learn about a vaccine, cure, treatment or availability of a test online, by e-mail or by telephone
- **Do your Homework Before you Donate**
 - Research any charities or crowdfunding sites before you donate
 - Do NOT send any donations in cash, by wire transfer, by gift card or through the mail
- **Do your Homework Before you Invest**
 - Research any offers or opportunities tied to COVID-19 carefully before you invest
- **Report Price Gougers**
 - If you believe a business is charging unfair prices, contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 1-800-282-0515

What if I think I have been scammed?

CALL

Legal Aid Line of Western Ohio

Monday – Friday: 9am – 4pm



TOLL-FREE

(888) 534-1432

APPLY ONLINE

24 hours/day; 7 days/week



ONLINE

www.LegalAidLine.org

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