Coronavirus Scams

Tips from the FTC

ftc.gov/coronavirus

Source: Federal Trade Commission | FTC.gov
Welcome

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Scammers follow the headlines

- As headlines change, so will the scams
- Help the FTC and law enforcement partners know what you’re seeing
  - Report scams to [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)
Treatments & cures

- Vaccine offers
- Test kit offers
- Miracle cures
- Medicare-related scams

Learn the facts at [ftc.gov/coronavirus]
What FTC is doing: law enforcement

- The FTC & FDA sent warning letters to makers of teas, essential oils, and colloidal silver
  - Said their products would help prevent coronavirus
  - BUT: No evidence to back up claims
What FTC is doing: law enforcement

Companies included
- Vital Silver
- Aromatherapy Ltd
- N-ergetics
- GuruNanda, LLC
- Vivify Holistic Clinic
- Herbal Amy, LLC
- The Jim Bakker Show
Email/text scams & malicious websites

- Phishing emails & texts
- Get your money
- Get your information
- Links to malware sites

Re: SAFETY CORONA VIRUS AWARENESS WHO

World Health Organization

Dear Sir,

Go through the attached document on safety measures regarding the spreading of corona virus.

Click on the button below to download

Safety measures

Symptoms common symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Regards,

Dr. Stella Chungong
Specialist wuhan-virus-advisory

FAKE
Email/text scams & malicious websites

- Malicious websites
  - Lots of domains including “Coronavirus”
  - Stick with known, trusted sites
- Don’t click links from sources you don’t know
Robocalls

- Health-related calls
  - Cures! Prevention! Test kits! Telemedicine! Health insurance!
- Cleaning supplies
- Social Security Administration scams
- Mortgage relief scams
- Student loan debt relief scams
- More every day
- Report to ftc.gov/complaint
Government stimulus checks

- The government will not ask
  - you to pay up front to get any money
  - for your SSN, bank account, or credit card number
- Anyone who tells you they can get you money NOW is a scammer.
Fake charities

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

- [ftc.gov/charity](http://ftc.gov/charity)
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
5 things to know!

- Ignore offers of home tests
- Hang up
- Beware phishing and texts
- Donate with care
#FTCScamBingo

[Image of FTC Scam Bingo]

Learn more about spotting and reporting scams at consumer.ftc.gov. Sign up for Consumer Alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.
Stay informed

- Get the FTC’s Consumer Alerts: [ftc.gov/subscribe](http://ftc.gov/subscribe)
- Report scams or questionable claims: [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)
- Know the latest on the Coronavirus
  - COVID-19 Scams: [ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://ftc.gov/coronavirus)
  - Federal gov’t response: [usa.gov/coronavirus](http://usa.gov/coronavirus)
Questions?

► Thank you!
► Carol Kando-Pineda
► ftc.gov/libraries
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