



SDCCD Community:

Cases of fraud and phishing are on the rise as the COVID-19 makes its course. Scammers have even gone as far as to dress in white lab coats and masks, impersonating Centers for Disease Control and Prevention workers. From text messages, to phone calls, to elaborate schemes — scammers are using COVID-19 as a new way to steal people's money and personal information. Two ingredients of a good scam are fear and confusion, and we have both of those right now. It is a prime time for a playground for people who want to take advantage of others. Sadly, scammers never stop trying to make a dishonest dollar—not even amid a pandemic.

If you receive an unsolicited text message, email, phone call or any other communication claiming a cash payment, government benefit or other COVID-19 related offers, **be very suspicious.**

Below are recent examples to exploit the pandemic and are just the beginning of a tsunami of fraud and identity theft.

- The authentic looking email from the World Health Organization (WHO) isn't real at all but rather clever spam meant to steal personal information.
- Callers claiming to be Medicaid and Medicare representatives are offering so-called free COVID-19 tests — as long as you pay with a credit card for shipping. The goal in these scams is to get credit card information.
- Fake Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asking for donations, except it's not the CDC, but a fake website.
- Phishing emails related to charitable contributions, general financial relief, airline refunds and fake cures, testing kits and vaccines.
- Look out for phishing emails asking you to verify your personal information in order to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. While talk of economic stimulus checks has been in the news cycle, government agencies are not sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information in order to send you money.

Most importantly take care of yourself, your family, friends and colleagues and exercise additional caution within the vast digital world to protect all of us.

*Regards Don...*

*Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much.*

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