

## COVID-19 Frauds & Scams | Facts & Tips



Scammers and fraudsters continue to persist during the COVID-19 pandemic, putting a spin on their regular scams to capitalize on fear while we face uncertain and unprecedented circumstances. It is important to protect yourself, and be aware of potential warning signs of scams that are currently being recognized by and reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. As per their recommendations, be sure to beware of the following:



Spoofer government, healthcare, or research information and sources

Unsolicited calls, emails and texts giving medical advice or requesting urgent action or payment

- If you didn't initiate contact, you don't know who you're communicating with
- Never respond to suspicious emails or click on suspicious links or attachments
- Never give out your personal or financial details

Unauthorized or fraudulent charities requesting money for victims, products or research

- Don't be pressured into making a donation
- Verify that a charity is registered

High-priced or low-quality products purchased in bulk by consumers and resold for profit

- These items may be expired and/or dangerous to your health

Questionable offers, such as:

- miracle cures
- herbal remedies
- vaccinations
- faster testing

Fake and deceptive online ads, including:

- cleaning products
- hand sanitizers
- duct cleaning or other home improvements claiming to protect from COVID-19
- other items in high demand

# Some quick tips for staying safe when faced with a potential scam include:



Be skeptical - stop and think about what the person is offering and don't worry about being polite as scammers and fraudsters are known to capitalize on emotions



Be suspicious of calls or emails from organizations you have no reason to be hearing from



Say no – reputable organizations will never have an issue with you taking time to consider your options prior to making a decision



Do your research - ensure they are legitimate and trustworthy, or get a second opinion from someone you trust



Report the attempt - it is important to report fraud to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, even if you are not a victim in order for law enforcement to respond and to prevent others from being victimized in the future

For more information on how to report scams and frauds, what to do if you are a victim of a fraud, or general information on reported scams and trusted resources, please visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website:

<https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/>