

Don't Fall for Coronavirus Scams



What Scammers Are Doing:

Setting up fake websites to sell **unproven treatments**, or to offer cleaning and disinfecting products at **exorbitant prices**.

Calling, texting, sending emails, and creating social media posts to entice you to buy a bogus testing kit or fake product, or to offer vaccinations.

Sending fake information in messages that appear to be from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other experts claiming to have new info about the virus.

Creating fake “investment opportunities” claiming that products or services of publicly-traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure coronavirus - and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result.

Setting up fake efforts to take donations for victims in hard-hit areas.

What You Can Do:

Be alert!

- According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are currently NO drugs or vaccines approved to treat or prevent coronavirus.
 - Ignore online offers, calls, emails, texts and social media posts telling you otherwise.

Be smart buying online

- Shop from trusted places and sellers and compare prices before buying.
- The FDA advises that testing for the coronavirus is only conducted in verified state and local public laboratories.
 - Ignore online offers for virus test kits.

Visit reliable resources for the most up-to-date information

- City of Thornton: gocot.net/covid19
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/
- CDC: cdc.gov

Don't click on links in unsolicited emails or from sources you don't know

- These links can lead you to a fake website or can download malicious software (malware) or a virus onto your computer.
- Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.

Do your homework before donating or investing

- Check that a charity is legitimate at the Colorado Secretary of State's Office or at www.coloradogives.org.
- If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.
- Be alert to virus-related investment schemes, and research new investments carefully.