

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

### 1. DON'T GIVE OUT YOUR BANK

#### ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

Never give out your bank account information or social security number over the phone. The IRS will NEVER ask for this type of information.

### 2. FACT CHECK INFORMATION:

Contact trusted sources to verify information before you pass it on. For the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control visit [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov).

### 3. HANG UP ON ROBOCALLS:

Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam coronavirus treatments to home test kits.

### 4. AVOID CLICKING ON UNKNOWN LINKS:

Don't respond to text messages or emails containing links about stimulus checks.

### 5. RESEARCH CHARITABLE DONATIONS:

Do your homework before donating.

## REPORT SUSPECTED FRAUD

Scammers count on their victims' reluctance to admit they have been duped. Remember, if you never report the crime, they are free to cheat others again and again, and you have no chance of ever getting your money back.

**Report COVID-19 fraud to the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline: 1-866-720-5721, Online at <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/webform/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>**

or

**Report to the Oklahoma Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit by calling 405-521-2029, or by email at [consumerprotection@oag.ok.gov](mailto:consumerprotection@oag.ok.gov).**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Justice

<https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>

Oklahoma Attorney General

<http://www.oag.ok.gov/coronavirus->

# COVID-19 FRAUD

## How to Protect Yourself and Where to Report

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## CORONAVIRUS ANTI-FRAUD TASK FORCE

The Oklahoma Coronavirus Fraud Task Force is a joint federal and state partnership led by Assistant United States Attorneys from the Eastern, Western, and Northern Districts of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. The mission of the task force is to identify, investigate, and prosecute fraud related to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in Oklahoma.

### TASK FORCE MEMBERS

#### Eastern District of Oklahoma

Assistant U.S. Attorney Clay Compton

#### Northern District of Oklahoma

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kristin Harrington, Marianne Hardcastle, and Victor Régal

#### Western District of Oklahoma

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brandon Hale

#### Oklahoma Attorney General's Office

Deputy Attorney General  
Dara Derryberry

## THE BEST PROTECTION FROM BECOMING A VICTIM IS BEING INFORMED

- **COVID-19 Economic Impact Scam:** Scammers will claim to be from the IRS or other agencies and ask for your banking information or attempt to have you to sign over your economic impact payment check. The IRS will never ask for this type of information.
- **Supply scams:** Scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts, and email addresses claiming to sell medical supplies currently in high demand, such as surgical masks. When consumers attempt to purchase supplies, the fraudsters pocket the money and never provide supplies.
- **Provider scams:** Scammers are contacting people by phone and email, claiming to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend or relative for COVID-19, and demanding payment.
- **Charity scams:** Scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19.
- **Phishing scams:** Scammers posing as national and global health authorities, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are sending phishing emails designed to trick recipients into downloading malware or providing personal identifying and financial information.
- **App scams:** Scammers are creating and manipulating mobile apps, claiming to "track the spread of COVID-19." Instead the app inserts malware to compromise users' devices/personal information.
- **Investment scams:** Scammers are offering online promotions on various platforms, including social media, claiming that the products or services of publicly traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure COVID-19, and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result. These promotions are often styled as "research reports," make predictions of a specific "target price," and relate to microcap stocks, or low-priced stocks issued by the smallest of companies with limited publicly available information.
- **Price gouging scams:** Individuals and businesses might sell essential goods, like medical equipment, for significantly higher prices than in a non-emergency setting. The Emergency Price Stabilization Act generally prohibits a person or business from charging more than 10 percent on goods or services than was charged on the same goods or services immediately prior to the declaration of an emergency from the State of Oklahoma.
- **Unemployment fraud scheme:** Fraudsters offer to help individuals file claims for unemployment benefits and ask for personal identifying information like SSN and DOB. They may also ask you to provide payment or credit card information for their services. Unsolicited calls, social media platforms, and door-to-door visits are used to target victims.