

STOP CORONAVIRUS SCAMS IN THEIR TRACKS

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, scammers and con artists are finding new ways to prey on consumers. It's more important than ever to exercise extreme vigilance. Don't let scammers add to the challenges we all face as a result of this pandemic.

UNSUBSTANTIATED DISINFECTANT CLAIMS

From cleaning products to air conditioning filters and duct sprays, scammers are making unsubstantiated claims about the ability of their products to kill the virus or disinfect surfaces. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers tips on how to best disinfect different surfaces at [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a list of known disinfectants at [EPA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.epa.gov/Coronavirus).



TREATMENT, VACCINE, AND CURE CLAIMS

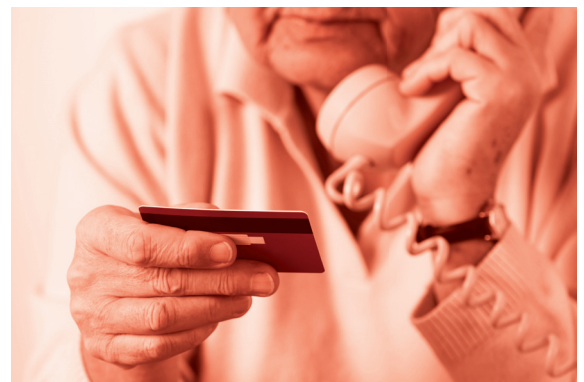
Con artists are preying on consumer health concerns by touting fake Coronavirus immunity boosters, treatments, vaccines, and cures. Know that there is no vaccine or cure identified or approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at this time. Seek guidance on health claims from the CDC at [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus) or the Florida Department of Health at [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov). Call 9-1-1 in a medical emergency or seek the advice of a licensed medical professional for non-emergency medical care.

SHAM AT-HOME TESTING KITS

Scammers are offering Coronavirus home testing kits through unsolicited calls and text messages, websites, and social media posts. Know that there is currently no home testing kit for Coronavirus approved by the FDA. To request testing, call your county health department. Find their contact information at [FloridaHealth.gov/all-county-locations.html](https://www.floridahealth.gov/all-county-locations.html).

FEDERAL STIMULUS SCAMS

Even before the stimulus checks were final, scammers were already trying to con consumers out of this federal benefit. Know that the federal government does not require consumers to make a purchase or pay up-front fees to claim or expedite the availability of a federal benefit. The stimulus checks require no action on the consumer's part.



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FRAUDULENT PRODUCTS

Con artists are taking advantage of the high demand of personal protective equipment and cleaning products by offering fraudulent products for sale, claiming they have exclusive access to them. Make purchases from only trusted sources and know that legitimate products are currently in short supply. Keep a record of the transaction and consider paying by credit card so a fraudulent charge can be more readily disputed.



CHARITY SCAMS

During times of crisis, scammers often try to take advantage of the good will and generosity of others by creating sham charitable organizations and pocketing any donations. Before donating, determine whether it is registered to solicit in Florida at [FDACS.gov](https://www.fdacs.gov) and check its reviews on [CharityNavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org).

UNSOLICITED CALLS, TEXTS, AND EMAILS

The pandemic has given rise to new scams received via unsolicited messages. Upon receipt of a robocall, hang up. Ignore recordings that say that pressing a button will connect the call recipient to an operator or will remove the recipient from the robocall list. Pressing a button on the phone will likely lead to more robocalls. Do not provide personal or financial information to anyone making unsolicited contact. Do not click links in unsolicited text messages or emails, as doing so may download malware onto the device.



HOME SOLICITATION

Because many are at home working remotely and self-isolating, door-to-door solicitations may increase. Know that the CDC is not performing home testing, and anyone posing as a CDC representative is a con artist.

RESOURCES:

**Florida Department of Health
COVID-19 Response**
24/7 Calls: 1-866-779-6121
COVID-19@FLHealth.gov
[FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19)

Centers for Disease Control
1-800-232-4636
[CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

**Florida Office of the Attorney General
Fraud Hotline**
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
(1-866-966-7226)

Visit [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridallegal.com) to find consumer tips or to file a complaint. By remaining vigilant and informed, savvy consumers can help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



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